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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

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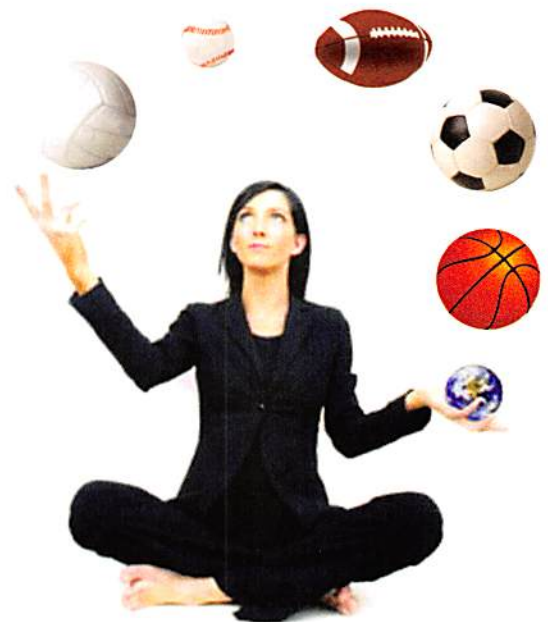
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HUSKERS PICK UP STATEMENT WIN OVER DUCKS

THE SCENE AFTER NEBRASKA'S 35-32 WIN OVER OREGON ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT MEMORIAL STADIUM WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE 39-38 VICTORY OVER UNDEFEATED MICHIGAN STATE A YEAR AGO.

There were players jumping around on benches and waving towels, the sell out crowd was jumping up and down and the song "Let me Clear My Throat" was blaring over the speakers in the background.

There is one very big distinction with Saturday's win over Oregon compared to last year's one-point victory over the Spartans and that is Nebraska's record. The Huskers are now 3-0 compared to last year when the win gave NU a 4-6 record.

"This was a statement game for us," said senior quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. afterwards. "We wanted to go into our conference season with a 3-0 record... This was one of the biggest games I have played in during my career."

This was Nebraska's first non-conference victory over a ranked opponent since 2001, when the Huskers defeated Notre Dame.

Midway through the first half, things didn't look good for NU. The momentum started turning NU's way right before halftime when the defense forced a quick three-and-out and De'Mornay Pierson-El made a 45-yard return back to the Oregon 19-yard line.

Armstrong eventually found Jordan Westerkamp on a three-yard touchdown catch with five seconds left on the clock to bring NU within 20-14 going into the halftime break. This was the first of 21-consecutive points by the Huskers, who took a 28-20 lead with 6:13 left in the third quarter.

Even when Armstrong completed a fourth down and nine pass to Jordan Westerkamp and then broke free for a 34-yard touchdown run, no one in Memorial Stadium was comfortable with as explosive of an offensive as the Ducks have.

I turned to our reporter in the press box when Oregon got the ball back with 2:29 remaining and made the comment that I don't know if Nebraska fans could handle



much more heartache.

Then the Ducks converted a couple of first downs and had the ball in Nebraska territory. Here we go again thought many of the fans who made up the record-setting 350th-straight sell-out. Then Oregon quarterback Dakota Prukop got around the corner and ran down to the NU 30-yard line. It looked like the Ducks might just be a play or two away from field goal range or worse yet. However, a holding penalty negated this run and set the Ducks back to a first and 20 at midfield.

Oregon's first pass play was broken up by Chris Jones. On second and 20, Prukop saw receiver Charles Nelson break free near the same south endzone where Brigham Young made its Hail Mary catch. However, Kieron Williams closed as the ball was in the air and knocked it away to set up third and 20.

Freedom Akinmoladun knocked ball loose on third down to set up fourth and 18 at the NU 48-yard line. NU's pressure again got to Prukop on fourth down and Michael Rose-Ivey stopped him well short giving NU the ball back. The Huskers took a knee, setting off the wild celebration.

Finishing off the Ducks was a big change, other than the Michigan State game, from Riley's first season in Lincoln when the Huskers saw opposing teams come back and win five times on their final possessions of the game.

For NU's coaches, it appears likely that the win over the Ducks will propel Nebraska into the top 25 for the first time since Mike Riley was hired as the head coach in December of 2014. NU was last ranked in the AP Top 25 at No. 25 going into its 2014 Holiday Bowl game with USC after Bo Pelini had been fired and Barney Cotton was the interim head coach. NU lost that game 45-42.

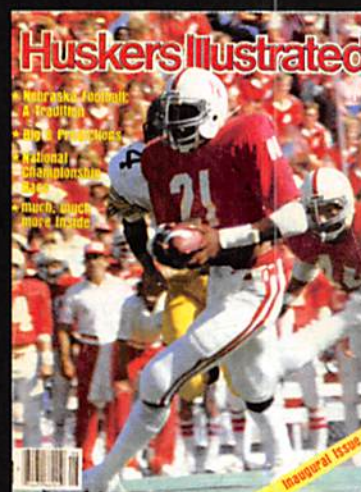
NU can't overlook Northwestern this weekend. The Wildcats and Huskers almost always have close games. As great as a statement win is, it's quickly forgotten if it's followed by a setback.

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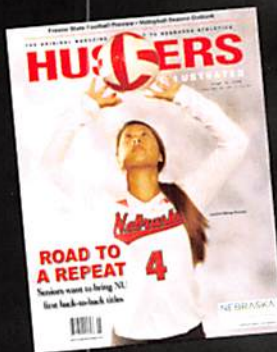
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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Northwestern recap and the Illinois preview will mail on Monday, Sept. 26.

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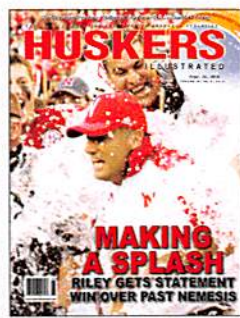
BY KEVIN HOUCK

Sophomore linebacker misses Arizona, but is enjoying his time playing and being around teammates at Nebraska.

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | SITE | TIME | TV/SCORE |
|----------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| SEPT. 3 | FRESNO STATE | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 7P.M. | W, 43-10 |
| SEPT. 10 | WYOMING | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 11A.M. | W, 52-17 |
| SEPT. 17 | OREGON | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 2:30P.M. | W, 35-32 |
| SEPT. 24 | @NORTHWESTERN | EVANSTON, ILLINOIS | 6:30P.M. | BTN |
| OCT. 1 | ILLINOIS | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 2:30P.M. | TBA |
| OCT. 15 | @INDIANA | BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA | 2:30P.M. | TBA |
| OCT. 22 | PURDUE | MEMORIAL STADIUM | TBA | TBA |
| OCT. 29 | @WISCONSIN | MADISON, WISCONSIN | 6P.M. | ABC/ESPN |
| NOV. 5 | @OHIO STATE | COLUMBUS, OHIO | 7P.M. | ABC/ESPN |
| NOV. 12 | MINNESOTA | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 6:30 P.M. | BTN |
| NOV. 19 | MARYLAND | MEMORIAL STADIUM | TBA | TBA |
| NOV. 25 | @IOWA | IOWA CITY, IOWA | TBA | TBA |

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Nebraska head coach Mke Riley receives a Gatorade bath from linebacker Josh Banderas and other Husker players after NU defeated Oregon 35-32 on Saturday at Memorial Stadium. Coaching before the 350th-consecutive sell-out crowd, Riley was able to personally end a seven-game losing streak against the Ducks while giving NU its first win over a ranked non-conference foe since 2001.

PHOTO BY MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

NU will look to cash in on Oregon win with Illinois visits

Nebraska's thrilling 35-32 win over Oregon should be an eye opener for Husker recruits and targets on the West Coast.

The Huskers have now beat, within the same calendar year, Oregon and UCLA, two teams that tend to stick out for recruits in Los Angeles.

Nebraska's momentum, which includes its own hashtag – #Calibraska – has never been stronger.

Maybe that's why a guy like three-star linebacker Rahyme Johnson said in the moments after the Huskers' win, that he wished he could be in Lincoln to experience.

"I should've taken my official visit for that game," Johnson said.

The eight recruits who did make Oregon their official visit leave Lincoln impressed by what they experienced. The atmosphere and the way the game played out – a see-saw affair with the teams trading leads throughout – proved Nebraska can still provide an unmatched playing experience.

As great as Nebraska's atmosphere was and as impressed as recruits were by the win, for someone like Johnson, who is also considering Florida, Oregon, Texas A&M and UCLA, the victory showed the Huskers have strong coaching and the resolve of a champion.

He said the win, combined with a strong bowl performance against UCLA, showed the Huskers don't panic when their backs are



Long-time Nebraska linebacker target Rahyme Johnson from Salesian High School in Los Angeles plans to visit for the Illinois game.

against the wall.

"Beating two Pac-12 powers shows Nebraska is resilient," he said. "Nebraska got hit first but didn't hang its heads. The Huskers were down in the fourth quarter and just kept ticking."

The Huskers will get their chance to host Johnson and a pair of other highly-touted Californians, and likely several more unscheduled official visitors, for the team's next home game against Illinois on Oct. 1.

Here is who else is expected to be in town for the Illinois game:

Joseph Lewis

This will be the fourth five-star recruit the Huskers have had on campus for a visit during the football season and it will be Lewis' third visit overall. The touted receiver from Augustus

Hawkins is strongly considering Nebraska because of his relationship with wide receivers coach Keith Williams and the need the Huskers have at receiver.

Lewis had considered coming out to Nebraska for the Oregon game, but decided he'd rather see the Huskers during conference season. Additionally, he'll get the opportunity to spend more time on campus as he's visiting during his bye week.

Jaylon Johnson

Recently announced on the guest list, Johnson is a top-100 player and one of the best defensive backs in the country. The Fresno State resident is coming out to see Nebraska after some strong regional recruiting and the early success of fellow Northern Californian, Larmar Jackson.

The Huskers are again

chasing some Pac-12 teams here, but just getting Johnson out for a visit is a coup. It wasn't too long ago when most considered Jackson to be a longshot, before he spurned other programs and ended up picking the Huskers.

Isaiah Hodgins

Another top flight wide receiver, also from California, Hodgins is taking a visit out to see the Huskers because of his relationship with Williams. This will be the first visit for Hodgins, who was previously committed to Washington State.

Nebraska's win over Oregon was also important as Hodgins is considering the Ducks as well. He's said to be a strong lean, but Nebraska will at least get an opportunity to make it's pitch to the six-foot-four, three-star wide receiver. **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Armstrong 'plays out of his mind' in victory



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

Nebraska senior quarterback Tommy Armstrong stood in front of a bank of cameras just as he has for several years during his career at Nebraska, but Saturday felt different.

For one, Armstrong stopped between questions from media to stretch his legs. Not much time had passed from when the senior quarterback sat on the sidelines fighting leg cramps, while chugging pickle juice, Pedialyte, Gatorade, water and whatever else he could cram down his throat to help with debilitating cramps.

It had been even less time since Armstrong galloped into the end zone, having scored the Huskers' go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter on two bad legs.

Armstrong, who is normally comfortable downplaying injuries, didn't mince what he played through Saturday.

"It felt like Jell-o, honestly," Armstrong said of his legs. "I was just trying to get in the end zone. When I got in the end zone, that's when it started cramping up a lot more. I just sat there. They had to pick me up. Once you get the adrenaline pumping, you don't really realize until you get to the sideline then you're like 'Oh man, here we go.' And Mark (Phillip) was like 'Are you all right?' And I was like 'Yeah, I'm good.' Just make sure you hydrate. That's the key in the middle of the day. My legs hurt, but they feel better when they're in the end zone. It helps a lot."

It was the final offensive play of a gutty effort by Armstrong that resulted in a big win over the No. 22 Ducks. Armstrong finished the game 17-for-33 for 200 yards, three touchdowns and more importantly, no interceptions. The only blemish on the game for Armstrong came when he threw behind running back Mikale Wilbon late in the second quarter and an Oregon defender nearly took the ball back for a touchdown.

Armstrong also added 16 carries for 95 yards and the go-ahead touchdown. The gutsy effort wasn't lost on head coach Mike Riley, who was winless in his last seven games against Oregon coming into Satur-

day's contest.

"I think it kind of speaks for itself," Riley said of Armstrong's performance. "It was a really, really well-played, hard-fought football game. Lots of different things happened in the game and it went back and forth. Lots of different momentum where it looked like one team was going to take over. Nobody ever did until the clock ran out. The quarterback is at the center of a lot of that, and of course he made plays throwing the ball, running, and making some good reads handing the ball off. Played a heck of a football game, and a lot of times players end up being defined by those moments where you have to drive a team down and win the game. It's a really good sign."

Armstrong's performance was reflective of the kind of effort needed to defeat Oregon, and representative of the kind of game Nebraska will need to play going forward. Last season, Saturday's game would have been the kind of game that Nebraska likely would have lost – a game that required not only discipline to come back from a double-digit deficit late in the first quarter, but to also score the go-ahead touchdown and hold a lead with a



defensive stand late in the fourth quarter.

Nebraska may have lost the turnover battle Saturday, but the Huskers scratched and clawed late when it mattered. Give credit, most of all, to Armstrong – the at-times maligned senior quarterback – who willed the Huskers to victory.

Armstrong will be the catalyst for whatever happens the rest of the way – both good and bad – for Nebraska going forward. On Saturday, Armstrong was at his best.

"Tommy played out of his mind," senior wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp said. "He is such a competitor. He was dealing with so much. He was taking big hit after big hit, cramping up a little bit. Like I said just now, he is the biggest competitor out there, and it is awesome to have him as our quarterback. The guy never quits, and that motivates our offense and our whole team so much."



10 questions

with **Dedrick Young**

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Mitch Otto, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations, Action Photo by Reggie Ryder

Q: What's your biggest pet peeve?

A: To be honest with you, I don't even know. I mean, off the top of my head I don't think I have one. Is that weird?

Q: What's your favorite holiday?

A: Probably Christmas because you get to see family and spend time with them and all that.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: That's a tough one. I would have to say getting a dog. Prowler was his name.

Q: What about Arizona do you miss?

A: I would say just being around family, my friends and all that good stuff.

Q: Where's the place to be in Arizona then?

A: Probably Scottsdale. The mall in Scottsdale or something like that then Top Golf is there.

Q: What are three things you couldn't live without?

A: The three things that I couldn't live without are family, my phone probably, and a house I would say.

Q: Are you more of a scary movie or comedy type of guy? Any why?

A: Scary movie because they scare me. My favorite scary movie that I have seen would be the first Insidious movie. It did scare me.



Q: Who on the team would win an arm wrestling competition?

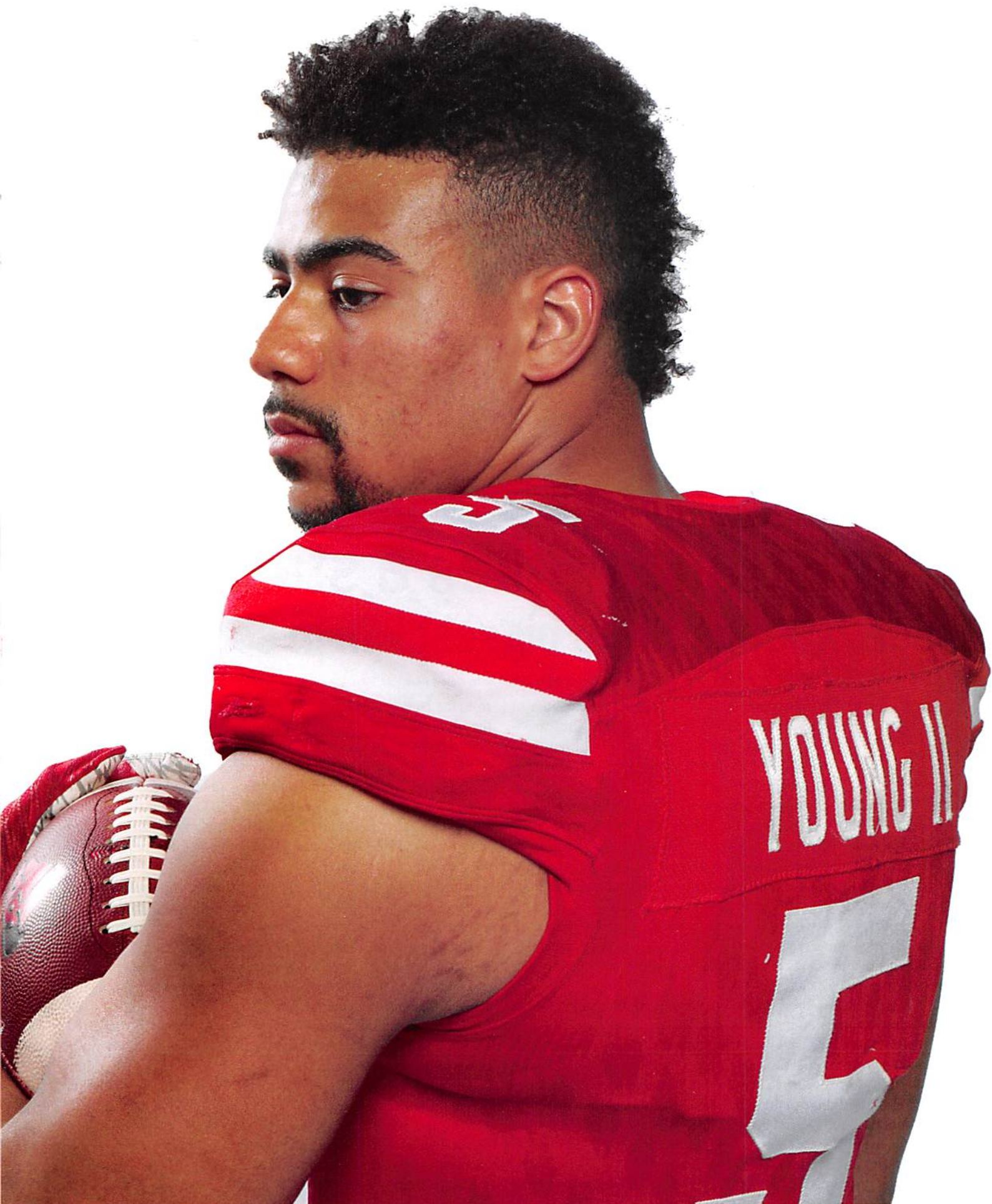
A: Mick (Stoltenberg) and D.J. (Jerald) Foster would be the two. I don't know who would win that but probably D.J. Wait no, I'll give it to my boy Mick.

Q: Where is somewhere you want to go on a vacation to?

A: Probably somewhere on the south side. Somewhere down south just because I haven't been down there in a while.

Q: If you could go into a time machine, which era would you choose?

A: Probably the 1900's with all the revolutions that happened around that time. It would be pretty cool to see.



Nebraska 35, Oregon 32



Tommy Armstrong Jr. dives across the goal line for what turned out to be the game-winning touchdown run.

Armstrong makes a statement

Senior leads NU to biggest win in some time

Story by Kevin Houck • Photos by Jimmy Rash

Nebraska came up with big plays on both sides of the ball at the right time to beat No. 22 Oregon 35-32 on Saturday afternoon before 90,414 fans who made up the 350th-consecutive sell out at Memorial Stadium.

"This Husker team, what it means to us is a lot. I think it's a lot to get 3-0 going into the Big Ten. I think it's a really good deal," Nebraska head coach Mike Riley said. "This team and what we're doing. We still have a lot of work to do, but I love the fight and just the fact that we kept our poise so well to come back and make the plays to win."

Oregon struck first on its second drive of the game. Running back Tony Brooks-James scored from 20-yards out with 8:19 remaining in the first quarter. Oregon's two-point conversion attempt was successful to put the Ducks up 8-0.

Oregon running back Royce Freeman injured his ankle on the drive and did not return.

The Huskers answered back late in the first quarter. Quarterback Tommy Armstrong ended an eight-play, 55-yard drive with a 22-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp.

On their third-drive of the game, the Huskers went for it on fourth and eight from the Oregon 36-yard line. Armstrong's pass fell short of wide receiver Alonzo Moore along the sideline.

The Ducks responded to the momentum shift.

Oregon quarterback Dakota Prukop completed a fourth and three

from the Huskers' 25 to extend the drive. Brooks-James capped off the 64-yard drive with a two-yard rushing touchdown. The two-point conversion was unsuccessful, leaving the score 14-7.

On the ensuing drive, Armstrong drove the offense into the red-zone but miscues piled up. Third-string running back Tre Bryant fumbled but the Huskers recovered the ball. On the next play, Armstrong unsuccessfully threw a backwards pass to fourth-string running back Mikale Wilbon and Oregon returned the fumble to the 50-yard line.

Running back Taj Griffin quickly turned the turnover into points, as he took the first play 50 yards for the touchdown. The two-point conversion failed making the score 20-7 in favor of Oregon.

Both teams had unproductive drives before Oregon punted to De'Mornay Pierson-El with just over a minute left in the first half and he returned the punt for 45 yards to the Oregon 19-yard line to set Nebraska up with great field position.

"I thought that was almost a 14-point swing around in there," Riley said. "We needed something, either a drive, or I didn't know that it was going to come from a punt return. But we needed something and it ended up being that punt return that was so big to get that right before the half."

With five seconds left in the first half, Armstrong completed his second touchdown of the day to Westerkamp. This time a three-yard connection to cut the Oregon lead to 20-14 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Nebraska picked up where it left off. The



Running back Devine Ozigbo dives for extra yardage on a carry against Oregon.

Huskers set up a big passing play after giving running back Devine Ozigbo the ball five out of six plays for 35 yards to begin the drive. Armstrong then stretched the defense with a floater to sophomore wide receiver Bryan Reimers for a 22-yard touchdown. The catch - Reimers' first as a Husker - put the Huskers ahead 21-20 with 11:48 remaining in the third quarter. It was NU's first lead of the game.

Again the Ducks' defense had no answer for the Husker offense with a little help from its own miscues. A defensive pass interference and substitution infraction helped the Huskers scoring drive. The Huskers balanced attack knocked the Ducks off their feet ending in a seven-yard rushing touchdown by Ozigbo, putting the Huskers up 28-20 at the 6:13 mark of the third quarter.

Oregon's offense found momentum and answered with 7-play drive. After completing a 25-yard pass on second and 27, running back Kani Benoit took the ball through the left side for 41-yard touchdown. Again Oregon failed the two-point conversion attempt but cut the Husker lead to 28-26 with 2:42 left in the third quarter.

Nebraska's next drive stalled after Armstrong went out with cramps after a sack.

Oregon regained position at its own 3-yard line.

The Ducks converted two crucial third downs on their 10-play, 97-yard drive, setting up a one-yard touchdown run by Brooks-James with 10:48 left in the game. Again Oregon failed to convert the two-point conversion, leaving the score 32-26 with

Following back-to-back three-and-out possessions by each team, the Huskers took over at their own 20-yard line with 7:32 left in the game. The Huskers would put the ball in Ozigbo and Armstrong's hands.

Ozigbo got the call on five of Nebraska's first six plays.

Armstrong also had a 13-yard run in between.

Later in the drive on third and nine, Armstrong threw a catchable ball to Cethan Carter, who couldn't hold onto it after taking a big hit.

This left Riley and the NU coaching staff with a big decision.

Did Riley want to punt the ball with three timeouts left and a take a chance that the defense could stop Oregon or go for it on fourth and nine.

"I ended up with a lot of time to think about it," Riley said. "There was an injury out there, so I ended up going for it. Punting, and then going for it. And why it was, I did not want to give the team a shot to win the game right then. They're a good offensive team, and we had done pretty well defensively but they had moments where it didn't look like we could stop them, and we couldn't afford that. We couldn't afford to wait there and see what might happen. I thought we'd just go ahead and go get it."

Facing a fourth and nine at his own 49-yard line, Armstrong found Westerkamp in the middle of the field for a 14-yard gain that kept the drive alive.

"It's just off of what you would call "all-verticals," a three-by-one formation, but there are some adjustments to it and Westerkamp made a great adjustment," Riley said. "Tommy saw it and made a great throw. It was just really good football, really clutch football."

Two plays later, Armstrong ran a quarterback draw 34-yards to put the Huskers up 35-32 with 2:29 remaining in the game.

"It felt like Jell-o honestly," Armstrong said about his legs on the touchdown run. "I was just trying to get in the end zone. When I got in the end zone, that's when it started cramping up a lot more. I just sat there."

The Blackshirts defense took over from there. The Huskers stopped Oregon on fourth and 20 from the 50-yard line to seal the victory.

Up next, Nebraska travels to Northwestern on Saturday for its first road game of the season.

"We got a lot to improve," safety Nate Gerry said. "The Big Ten, you never know what you are going to get in the Big Ten. So everyday we have to come to practice. We have to win the week. Northwestern, they are a good ball team. I have never played them since I have been here. We just have to put our nose down."



Ross Dzuris and Freedom Akinmoladun tackle and knock the ball away from Oregon quarterback Dakota Prukop.

Defense bends, doesn't break against mighty Ducks

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY REGGIE RYDER

Clinging to a three-point lead late in the fourth quarter, Nebraska's defense was thrust into an all-too-familiar scenario that frequently didn't end favorably for the Cornhuskers last season.

Oregon was able to march into Nebraska territory, but was pushed back to the Huskers' 45-yard line after a holding penalty. Ducks' quarterback Dakota Prukop then threw a pair of incomplete passes and nearly lost a fumble before being stopped on a 3-yard fourth-down run at the NU 48 with linebacker Michael Rose-Ivey recording the game-clinching final tackle in NU's 35-32 victory.

Nebraska senior safety Nate Gerry said the final defensive stand was big for the Blackshirts.

"Ever since I've been here, we've

played a lot of tough games (and) we've had a lot of tough losses in those big-time games," said Gerry, who led Nebraska with nine total tackles against the Ducks. "I was just proud of the guys for fighting to the end and that's one thing that we worked on all week and one thing that we prepared for was to be mentally strong and physically strong.

"We had a lot of people step in and make plays and that's what we ask out of the Blackshirts every day."

Nebraska safety Kieron Williams, who earlier in the week received a Blackshirt, said he and his teammates played with everything they had.

That was especially the case on Oregon's final possession.

"We were relentless," Williams said. "I definitely think we showed people that we're a competitive team and that we can

go out there and stand toe to toe with any good team.

"When you go through things like the adversity we went through last year and you can come out on top in big games like this, it feels great."

Nebraska was able to celebrate a big win and a 3-0 start despite allowing 482 yards of total offense.

That included 336 yards rushing and allowing a 10-play, 97-yard drive that gave Oregon a 32-28 lead with 10:31 to play.

"They stayed with it – even though things didn't go our way all the time," Nebraska defensive coordinator Mark Banker said. "We gave up big plays right at the wrong time, but (we) just kept coming back and finished it exactly how they needed to. That's a great win for that group of guys in that locker room."

Armstrong fights through cramping issues

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH



Tommy Armstrong Jr. battles through cramps to lead the Huskers to a victory.

The toughness displayed by Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. during the Cornhuskers' 35-32 come-from-behind victory over Oregon wasn't lost on his teammates and coaches.

"He really was gritty," Nebraska offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said of Armstrong. "He just played through some cramps and was tough as nails. I think we were a little tight early, but he just kept playing and made some plays – really made some great plays running.

"(He) made a couple of big-time throws at the end of the game that we needed, so (I'm) really proud of his effort."

Despite battling leg cramps in the second half, Armstrong finished 17-of-33 passing for 200 yards with three touchdowns and zero interceptions. The 6-foot-1, 220-pound senior also rushed 21 times for 95 yards, including a 34-yard run to give the Huskers the go-ahead score with 2:29 to play.

"It felt like Jell-O, honestly," Armstrong said when asked about the condition of his legs after the game-winning TD run. "My legs hurt, but they feel better when they're in the end zone."

Even with the cramping issues, Armstrong was only sidelined for one offensive snap. As for Armstrong's prospects of returning to the field, Nebraska safety Nate Gerry said he never had a doubt Armstrong would be back.

"Ever since I've been here, I've respected the hell out of Tommy – Tommy's one of the toughest dudes I know," Gerry said. "I've never seen him get knocked down and not get back up and that's why this whole team respects Tommy. (No. 4) is a ballplayer and we love him for it."

Langsdorf said the Huskers continued to run the ball with Armstrong even after he began cramping because Nebraska had "some good looks" in the quarterback running game where it was able to outnumber Oregon's defense with its blocking schemes.

"I wanted to keep running him and he said, 'I'm good,'" Langsdorf said. "I said, 'OK. We're going to stick with it then.' But it was a deal where he just fought through and he kept getting fluids in the breaks."

Even Nebraska defensive coordinator Mark Banker took notice of Armstrong's determination to stay in the game.

"I know one thing: The dude has got the heart of a lion and you can't take that away from him," Banker said. "He's an awesome competitor and that's all you can ever ask for."

Nebraska 35, Oregon 32

Sept. 17, 2016 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln
Attendance: 90,414

| Score by Quarters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total |
|-------------------|---|----|----|---|-------|
| Oregon | 8 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 32 |
| Nebraska | 7 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 35 |

| Qtr | Time | Scoring Play | V-H |
|-----|-------|--|---------|
| 1st | 08:19 | ORE - Brooks-James 20 yd run (Nelson, Charles rush), 10-65 2:46 | 8 - 0 |
| | 02:05 | NEB - Westerkamp, J. 22 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 8-55 2:53 | 8 - 7 |
| 2nd | 05:56 | ORE - Brooks-James 2 yd run (Nelson, Charles pass failed), 11-64 3:41 | 14 - 7 |
| | 02:30 | ORE - Griffin, Taj 50 yd run (Nelson, Charles rush failed), 1-50 0:09 | 20 - 7 |
| | 00:05 | NEB - Westerkamp, J. 3 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 5-19 0:29 | 20 - 14 |
| 3rd | 11:48 | NEB - Reimers, Bryan 22 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 7-75 3:12 | 20 - 21 |
| | 06:13 | NEB - Ozigbo, Devine 7 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 10-62 4:28 | 20 - 28 |
| | 02:42 | ORE - Benoit, Kani 41 yd run (Prukop, Dakota pass failed), 7-75 3:31 | 26 - 28 |
| 4th | 10:31 | ORE - Brooks-James 1 yd run (Prukop, Dakota rush failed), 10-97 2:54 | 32 - 28 |
| | 02:29 | NEB - Armstrong Jr. 34 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 11-80 5:03 | 32 - 35 |



Bryan Reimers makes his first touchdown catch as a Husker. The Lincoln East graduate's 22-yard catch gave NU a 21-20 lead.



Freedom Akinmoladun pressures Oregon quarterback Dakota Prukop. The defensive end had five tackles and one forced fumble.



Kieron Williams knocks a pass down on Oregon's final possession of the game.

Team Statistics

| | ORE | NEB |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| FIRST DOWNS | 20 | 26 |
| Rushing | 14 | 12 |
| Passing | 5 | 10 |
| Penalty | 1 | 4 |
| NET YARDS RUSHING | 336 | 228 |
| Rushing Attempts | 47 | 47 |
| Average Per Rush | 7.1 | 4.9 |
| Rushing Touchdowns | 5 | 2 |
| Yards Gained Rushing | 347 | 253 |
| Yards Lost Rushing | 11 | 25 |
| NET YARDS PASSING | 146 | 200 |
| Completions-Attempts-Int | 14-23-0 | 17-35-0 |
| Average Per Attempt | 6.3 | 5.7 |
| Average Per Completion | 10.4 | 11.8 |
| Passing Touchdowns | 0 | 3 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS | 482 | 428 |
| Total offense plays | 70 | 82 |
| Average Gain Per Play | 6.9 | 5.2 |
| Fumbles: Number-Lost | 1-0 | 3-1 |
| Penalties: Number-Yards | 13-126 | 7-55 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 6-221 | 5-236 |
| Average Yards Per Punt | 36.8 | 47.2 |
| Net Yards Per Punt | 29.8 | 46.2 |
| Inside 20 | 1 | 3 |
| 50+ Yards | 0 | 1 |
| Touchbacks | 0 | 0 |
| Fair catch | 3 | 0 |
| KICKOFFS-YARDS | 6-403 | 6-377 |
| Average Yards Per Kickoff | 67.2 | 62.8 |
| Net Yards Per Kickoff | 43.8 | 42.8 |
| Touchbacks | 4 | 2 |
| Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD | 1-5-0 | 3-42-0 |
| Average Per Return | 5.0 | 14.0 |
| Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD | 4-70-0 | 2-40-0 |
| Average Per Return | 17.5 | 20.0 |
| Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD | 0-0-0 | 0-0-0 |
| Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD | 1-34-0 | 0-0-0 |
| Miscellaneous Yards | 0 | 0 |
| Possession Time | 24:55 | 35:05 |
| 1st Quarter | 9:01 | 5:59 |
| 2nd Quarter | 4:34 | 10:26 |
| 3rd Quarter | 4:38 | 10:22 |
| 4th Quarter | 6:42 | 8:18 |
| Third-Down Conversions | 5 of 14 | 5 of 13 |
| Fourth-Down Conversions | 2 of 3 | 2 of 3 |
| Red-Zone Scores-Chances | 3-3 | 2-3 |
| Touchdowns | 3-3 | 2-3 |
| Field goals | 0-3 | 0-3 |
| Sacks By: Number-Yards | 1-4 | 1-5 |
| PAT Kicks | 0-0 | 5-5 |
| Field Goals | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Points off turnovers | 6 | 0 |



Above: Stanley Morgan Jr. tries to make an acrobatic catch in the second half.
Left: Tight end Cethan Carter carries Duck defenders with him after a catch.

Individual Statistics

Oregon

| Rushing | No. | Gain | Loss | Net | TD | Lg | Avg |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|----|------|
| Benoit, Kani | 6 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 1 | 46 | 16.7 |
| Prukop, Dakota | 20 | 105 | 8 | 97 | 0 | 22 | 4.8 |
| Griffin, Taj | 8 | 71 | 3 | 68 | 1 | 50 | 8.5 |
| Brooks-James | 7 | 37 | 0 | 37 | 3 | 20 | 5.3 |
| Freeman, Royce | 5 | 31 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 10 | 6.2 |
| Allen, Devon | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Aiello, Brady | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Totals | 47 | 347 | 11 | 336 | 5 | 50 | 7.1 |

| Passing | C-A-I | Yds | TD | Long | Sack |
|----------------|---------|-----|----|------|------|
| Prukop, Dakota | 14-23-0 | 146 | 0 | 25 | 1 |
| Totals | 14-23-0 | 146 | 0 | 25 | 1 |

| Receiving | No. | Yards | TD | Long |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|------|
| Nelson, Charles | 8 | 80 | 0 | 25 |
| Carrington, D. | 3 | 36 | 0 | 14 |
| Stanford, D. | 1 | 23 | 0 | 23 |
| Griffin, Taj | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Brown, Pharaoh | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 14 | 146 | 0 | 25 |

| Punting | No. | Yds | Avg | Long | In20 | TB |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|----|
| Wheeler, Ian | 6 | 221 | 36.8 | 47 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | 6 | 221 | 36.8 | 47 | 1 | 0 |

| Returns | Punt | | | Kickoff | | | Intercept | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|-----------|-----|----|
| | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg |
| Carrington, D. | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nelson, Charles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 70 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 70 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Field goals | Qtr | Time | Dist | Result |
|-------------|-----|------|------|--------|
|-------------|-----|------|------|--------|

| Kickoffs | No. | Yards | Avg | TB | OB |
|-------------|-----|-------|------|----|----|
| Wogan, Matt | 6 | 403 | 67.2 | 4 | 0 |

| All-purpose | Run | Rcv | KR | PR | IR | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Nelson, Charles | 0 | 80 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 150 |
| Benoit, Kani | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Prukop, Dakota | 97 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 97 |
| Griffin, Taj | 68 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 74 |

FUMBLES: Oregon-Prukop, Dakota 1-0. Nebraska-Pierson-El, D. 1-0; Bryant, Tre 1-0; Armstrong Jr. 1-1.

Nebraska

| Rushing | No. | Gain | Loss | Net | TD | Lg | Avg |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|----|------|
| Ozigbo, Devine | 21 | 98 | 3 | 95 | 1 | 12 | 4.5 |
| Armstrong Jr. | 16 | 109 | 14 | 95 | 1 | 34 | 5.9 |
| Newby, Terrell | 7 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 19 | 6.0 |
| Bryant, Tre | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4.0 |
| TEAM | 1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 0 | 0 | -2.0 |
| Pierson-El, D. | 1 | 0 | 6 | -6 | 0 | 0 | -6.0 |
| Totals | 47 | 253 | 25 | 228 | 2 | 34 | 4.9 |

| Passing | C-A-I | Yds | TD | Long | Sack |
|---------------|---------|-----|----|------|------|
| Armstrong Jr. | 17-33-0 | 200 | 3 | 22 | 1 |
| Fyfe, Ryker | 0-1-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEAM | 0-1-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 17-35-0 | 200 | 3 | 22 | 1 |

| Receiving | No. | Yards | TD | Long |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|------|
| Carter, Cethan | 5 | 48 | 0 | 21 |
| Westerkamp, J. | 3 | 39 | 2 | 22 |
| Moore, Alonzo | 3 | 37 | 0 | 20 |
| Morgan Jr., S. | 3 | 35 | 0 | 14 |
| Reimers, Bryan | 1 | 22 | 1 | 22 |
| Pierson-El, D. | 1 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Ozigbo, Devine | 1 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Totals | 17 | 200 | 3 | 22 |

| Punting | No. | Yds | Avg | Long | In20 | TB |
|----------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|----|
| Lightbourn, C. | 5 | 236 | 47.2 | 58 | 3 | 0 |
| Totals | 5 | 236 | 47.2 | 58 | 3 | 0 |

| Returns | Punt | | | Kickoff | | | Intercept | | |
|----------------|------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|-----------|-----|----|
| | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg |
| Pierson-El, D. | 3 | 42 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nelson, Jordan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bryant, Tre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 3 | 42 | 45 | 2 | 40 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Field goals | Qtr | Time | Dist | Result |
|-------------|-----|------|------|--------|
|-------------|-----|------|------|--------|

| Kickoffs | No. | Yards | Avg | TB | OB |
|-------------|-----|-------|------|----|----|
| Brown, Drew | 6 | 377 | 62.8 | 2 | 0 |

| All-purpose | Run | Rcv | KR | PR | IR | Total |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Ozigbo, Devine | 95 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 103 |
| Armstrong Jr. | 95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 95 |
| Carter, Cethan | 0 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Pierson-El, D. | -6 | 11 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 47 |



Above: De'Mornay Pierson-El returns a punt to the Oregon 19-yard line. Left: Pierson-El fans Lincoln (7) and Henry Alex Kilker (5) pose with Herby in front of Memorial Stadium before the Oregon game.

Defensive Statistics

| # Oregon | Solo | Ast | Total | Sacks-Yds | TFL-Yds | FF | FR-Yds | Int-Yds | BrUp | Blks | QBH |
|--------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---------|----|--------|---------|------|------|-----|
| 28 Ragin III, J. | 5 | 5 | 10 | - | 1-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 Robinson, Tyree | 8 | 1 | 9 | 1.0-4 | 1-4 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 3 Moi, Jonah | 5 | 4 | 9 | - | 2-7 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 50 Maloata, Austin | 4 | 4 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18 Swain, Jimmie | 1 | 7 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 11 Hollins, Justin | 2 | 4 | 6 | - | 1-5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 1 Springs, Arrion | 3 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | 1-34 | - | 2 | - | - |
| 90 Carlberg, D. | 3 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 47 Manu, Rex | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 1-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8 Daniels, Reggie | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 43 Schooler, B. | 2 | 0 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14 Amadi, Ugo | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 92 Mondeaux, Henry | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 91 Daniel, T.J. | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 56 Young, Bryson | 0 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 20 Brooks-James | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 54 McDowell, D. | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24 Simms, Keith | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 26 Oliver, Khalil | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 42 | 38 | 80 | 1.0-4 | 6-19 | 0 | 1-34 | 0-0 | 5 | 0 | 1 |

| # Nebraska | Solo | Ast | Total | Sacks-Yds | TFL-Yds | FF | FR-Yds | Int-Yds | BrUp | Blks | QBH |
|--------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---------|----|--------|---------|------|------|-----|
| 25 Gerry, Nathan | 4 | 5 | 9 | - | 2-2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 26 Williams, K. | 3 | 4 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 8A Jones, Chris | 5 | 1 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 1A Rose-Ivey, M. | 4 | 2 | 6 | - | 1-3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 91 Akinmoladun, F. | 4 | 1 | 5 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 88 Dzuris, Ross | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1.0-5 | 1-5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 52 Banderas, Josh | 2 | 3 | 5 | - | 1-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 Young II, D. | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24 Williams, Aaron | 0 | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 Newby, Marcus | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16 Reed, Antonio | 2 | 0 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 Pierson-El, D. | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 41 McNitt, Luke | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 Kalu, Joshua | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 28 Taylor, Adam | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7 Barry, Mohamed | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 56 Simpson, Brad | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 44 Stoltenberg, M. | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13 Domann, JoJo | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 Maurice, Kevin | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1C Joseph, Boaz | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 34 | 32 | 66 | 1.0-5 | 5-11 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

RUSHING OFFENSE: The Huskers were going to have to be able to move the ball on the ground against the Ducks, and they succeeded, particularly in the second half. Nebraska finished with 228 yards and two touchdowns on the ground and was able to control the pace of play in the second half behind Devine Ozigbo, who finished with 95 yards and one touchdown on 21 carries, and quarterback Tommy Armstrong, who ran for 95 yards on 16 carries, while also scoring the go-ahead touchdown and battling leg cramps. — *Michael Schaefer*

A

PASSING OFFENSE: The Huskers were efficient when they needed to be in the passing game. The Huskers found tight end Cethan Carter five times for 48 yards, and Armstrong made his biggest throw of the game in the fourth quarter when he found Jordan Westerkamp on fourth down to continue the game-winning drive. Armstrong finished 17-of-33 for 200 yards and three touchdowns, and some of his throws to the perimeter helped keep Oregon from cheating in to stop the run. — *Michael Schaefer*

B+

RUSHING DEFENSE: The Huskers did enough in the running game despite Oregon's numbers to stay in the game. The Ducks finished with 336 yards and five touchdowns on the ground, and Kani Benoit carried six times for 100 yards on the nose. While Nebraska caught a break with Royce Freeman leaving the game early because of a leg injury, the Ducks didn't miss a beat. Quarterback Dakota Prukop finished with 97 yards on 20 carries and Taj Griffin added 68 yards on eight carries. Tackling was suspect at times, but Nebraska bowed up when it needed to in the win.

C

— *Michael Bruntz*

PASSING DEFENSE: The Huskers kept the Ducks out of the end zone through the air, and limited Prukop to 14-of-23 passing for 146 yards. Nebraska struggled to get off the field on a couple third-and-long plays, but the Huskers didn't give up any backbreaking pass plays — Prukop's longest completion of the day was just 25 yards. Nebraska's secondary caught a lot of grief last season for the number of big plays it surrendered in the passing game — and rightfully so, but the Husker secondary passed the test against the Ducks.. — *Michael Bruntz*

B+

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: The biggest play of Nebraska's day came in special teams, when junior De'Mornay Pierson-El caught a punt and returned it 45 yards into Oregon territory right before halftime. The return gave the Huskers a spark and helped set up a key touchdown before halftime. Punter Caleb Lightbourn rebounded from a tough first two games, and punted well, averaging 47.2 yards per kick. He also pinned Oregon inside its 20-yard line three different times. We'll also give credit to Nebraska here for stopping Oregon on two-point attempts. The Ducks were unsuccessful four times on those attempts — a huge factor in a three-point win.

A

Game Notes

ARMSTRONG JR. AGAIN TOPS MARTINEZ ON CAREER CHARTS

With 200 passing yards against Oregon, Tommy Armstrong became the Huskers' all-time passing leader at 7,376 yards. Taylor Martinez previously held the record with 7,258 yards.

Armstrong also became the second Husker to complete over 500 passes in their career behind Martinez.

Best friend and roommate Jordan Westerkamp didn't hesitate to give Armstrong praise after the game at the podium.

"Tommy played out of his mind," Westerkamp said. "He is such a competitor. He was dealing with so much. He was taking big hit after big hit, cramping up a little bit. Like I said just now, he is the biggest competitor out there, and it is awesome to have him as our quarterback. The guy never quits, and that motivates our offense and our whole team so much."

LIGHTBOURN FLASHES POTENTIAL AGAINST DUCKS

Punter Caleb Lightbourn showed exactly what he could become on Saturday night. After an inconsistent first two weeks, Lightbourn was consistent all night. He averaged 47.3 yards on five punts and downed three inside of the 20, including one at the three-yard line.

"I thought he just got better as the game went on," Riley said. "I think everybody got a glimpse of the ability of Caleb today."

HUSKERS DOWNPLAY THE RILEY, OREGON SIGNIFICANCE

Much was made this week about Riley facing Oregon this week. Riley was head coach at Oregon State for 14 years. He hadn't beat Oregon since 2008.

Riley downplayed the significance at the post game press conference.

"I think it stems from a long history with Oregon, and I don't want to talk about this too much but that was not only that we had some frustration with that because we didn't win enough but we also are excited to win and coach against that group because they've done a good job," Riley said. "They've done a good job, so I think that we beat a good team that is well coached and has been for a while. So that's the bottom line for this Nebraska team. Really good win, showed a lot of good stuff today."

Armstrong remained coy himself, already focusing on next week.

"You know, we really weren't there for everything with Oregon State and Oregon," Armstrong said. "But he's here, he's at Nebraska. It's one of

Quoting NU defensive coordinator Mark Banker on Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s toughness against Oregon:



"I know one thing, 'The dude has the heart of a lion and you can't take that away from him. He's an awesome competitor and that's all you can ever ask for.'"



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

A bouquet of flowers that Oregon coach Mark Helfrich and kicker Matt Wogan placed on the 27-yard line before the game in honor of Sam Foltz, sits in Foltz's honorary spot on the Nebraska bench during the game.

those things that we always look forward to, is playing a great team like Oregon and just being able to prove to everybody that we're willing to work our tails off to win games. And like I said before, this week is this week now, we're going aside looking at the things we need to fix and looking forward to having our first away game."

DUCKS HONOR FOLTZ

Prior to kickoff, Oregon kicker Matt Wogan and head coach Mark Helfrich

placed a green-and-yellow bouquet at the 27-yard line in tribute to the late Sam Foltz.

It was another classy tribute to Foltz — a person who was not only recognized by teammates but teams across the nation for his love of the game.

"That was real classy," Riley said. "I didn't actually even see it. I wasn't out there in time. I talked to Mark (Banker) about it and we really appreciate that. That was very thoughtful of them. Like I told

Mark too, almost every day by the hour we're reminded of Sam Foltz, and we're thankful for that. For them to step out and do that it was great."

With Lightbourn's 47.3 yards-per-punt, De'mornay Pierson-El's momentum changing punt return and Drew Brown's five extra-points, some might think there was a 12th man on the special teams unit Saturday.

"I know Sam is looking down on us clapping," Armstrong said after the game.



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Clockwise from above: De'Mornay Pierson-El reacts to his 45-yard punt return right before halftime. Jordan Westerkamp makes a defender miss on his 22-yard touchdown catch. Tommy Armstrong Jr. makes Oregon players miss on his 34-yard touchdown run.

Nebraska 35, Oregon 32



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Clockwise from above: Tommy Armstrong Jr. leaps into the arms of lineman Tanner Farmer. Kieron Williams and Chris Jones celebrate the victory. Josh Banderas and head coach Mike Riley share a moment.

2MinuteDrill



LEADER OF THE LINE SENIOR KEVIN MAURICE EMBRACES VETERAN ROLE

JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Compiled by Kevin Houck

Late in fall camp, senior defensive tackle Kevin Maurice was fielding questions from a handful of reporters after practice about what to expect from the defensive line.

Sophomore Freedom Akinmoladun and redshirt freshman DaiShon Neal grabbed a mic and joined the group of reporters. They started asking Maurice their own questions.

While Akinmoladun and Neal were getting their share of laughs, Maurice wasn't amused. He quickly put off the two and motioned them to head to the locker room.

Can you blame him? The senior from Orlando, Florida knows this is his last season as a Husker. If he wants to accomplish big things in 2016 then he needs to count on a young defensive line to quickly mature.

"We got a lot of young guys coming in this year and those guys can play," Maurice said. "I think you've seen that but just continue to help them, continue to show them how things need to continue to be done and just leave this place better than you found it."

Maurice has his own matter to worry about. After being a reserve behind Vincent Valentine and Maliek Collins for his first three seasons, Maurice is in his first season as a starter.

And not to mention his third defensive line coach in four years. Maurice said he hasn't worried about that. Whoever is the coach will notice what you bring to the table.

"Not really. If you do what you do, they're going to notice," Maurice said. "So it hasn't been that frustrating to do that."

With a young line around Maurice, first-year defensive line coach John Parrella might be the right guy for the job. Parrella is stressing consistency to the line. If you stop them for a loss then allow a big gain, that tackle for loss becomes irrelevant.

"Our group has got a long ways to go," Parrella said. "We're trying to gain a lot of fast time here in a short period of time. They're fighting, they're kicking and they're scratching to get it done. So everyday is a challenge to stay consistent."

Parrella has gained a fan from Maurice since he's arrived at Nebraska. Maurice said his energy he brings everyday fuels the line.

"Just his attitude and playing hard every down. I think that's the most important. Feeding off his energy has really helped us."

That's why Parrella is counting on seniors like Maurice and Ross Dzuris to play with consistency to set the bar for those younger linemen, especially when a younger guy enters the game.

"It's a challenge everyday for a young group to continue to progress and the consistency is something we need our seniors to do so our young guys can have the bar set for them," Parrella said.

I think any time you can play next to a senior like Kevin Maurice, (Ross) Dzuris or one of those older guys it really helps. It give you a little extra insurance what the call is

Continued on Pg. 26

HI'S TOP5

CLASS OF 2016 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



- 1 Kris Brown, Nebraska, 1995-1998**
- 2 Adam Carriker, Nebraska, 2003-2006**
- 3 Fred Davis, Doane, 1964-1967**
- 4 Scott Raridon, Nebraska, 1981-1983**
- 5 Dean Sukup, Nebraska, 1978-1979**

Even though there is no physical location where the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame sits, the first hall of fame class was introduced in 1971. The big picture of the hall of fame has more meaning to the state than to only the university. Although a large majority of the list are former Huskers, there are many other inductees from different Nebraska colleges — Chadron State (6), Concordia University (5), Creighton (1), Dana (5), Doane (8), Hastings (8), Midland (8), Nebraska-Kearney (15), UNO (22), Nebraska-Wesleyan (8), Peru State (5), Wayne State (7) and York College (2).



Jordan Westerkamp leaps over Oregon defender Reggie Daniels for a three-yard touchdown catch with five seconds remaining in the first



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

half. Westerkamp also caught a 22-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter.

Continued from Pg. 23

and that kind of thing. I think it's best you always play with a older player."

With only three starts under his belt, Parrella is counting on Maurice to help guide players like Carlos Davis, Khalil Davis, Sedrick King and Neal.

Maurice acknowledges that he may not have a significant amount of starts under his belt but it's the longevity of being in the program that's earned his leadership role.

"Even though I have started a lot of games, I have been here for 3-4 years so I know the jist of it that was passed along," Maurice said.

So when Maurice walked in on Aug. 30 to find his first ever Blackshirt hanging at his locker, it was none other than Parrella — former Blackshirt himself — waiting for him.

"He said, 'congratulations and continue to work,.' From there I just glanced at it and continued to get ready for practice."

But don't fool yourself, that one glance said it all.

"It was very exciting," Maurice said. "A lot of tradition goes into this shirt, a lot of hard work and just joining this brotherhood is very humbling."

GERRY NAMED DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Senior safety Nate Gerry helped spark the Blackshirts defense in his return to the field after serving a one-game suspension.

Gerry had two of the Blackshirts five interceptions and finished with a team-high seven tackles in the win against Wyoming. It was his first multi-interception game of his career moving him into top-five in the Huskers career interceptions list.

"It was great to have Nate back," Head Coach Mike Riley said. "He obviously is a veteran experienced football player. He likes to play, and he's well respected by our team and made plays in the ball game that were big plays and good plays."

NU PREPS FOR PAC-12 OFFICIALS

The news came out that the officiat-



Nate Gerry throws the bones after a stop against Oregon on Saturday.

ing crews for Saturday's game against Oregon will be Pac-12 officials, meaning they could favor the Ducks tempo.

"That's gonna be an adjustment for us because they let them go fast," Bray said. "The way that the game's officiated is different. They let them go fast. They aren't really worried about the procedure thing. It'll be a different experience for us."

The Ducks pre-snap alignment could hurt the Huskers. As Oregon gets back quickly to the line of scrimmage after each play, they also quickly sub. With such a fast tempo officials tend to overlook the fact the defense is then allowed substitutions also.

Riley made it clear to the media that he will have multiple discussions with the officiating crew before kickoff about

substitutions, pre-snap alignment and formation penalties that the high tempo could cause. A lot of those get overlooked because of the speed of the game.

INJURY BUG HITS NU

In Monday's press conference Riley said a handful of Huskers were questionable for Saturday against Oregon but would give more of an update on Thursday.

Mick Stoltenberg (knee), Alonzo Moore (shoulder), Brandon Reilly (hamstring), and Lamar Jackson (groin) availability were all in doubt heading into the week.

On Thursday, Riley updated the media on those four players.

Stoltenberg missing last week after arthroscopic knee surgery will play on



Defensive back Kieron Williams, who recently received his blackshirt, celebrates Nebraska's 35-32 victory over Oregon.

Saturday but how much will be the question.

"I believe Mick Stoltenberg is going to be able to play," Riley said. "How much and what we do with that right off the bat, I'm not sure yet. But we have high expectations after today."

Moore, who re-aggravated his shoulder injury last week, returned to practice on Thursday and will play.

Riley announced Reilly was "questionable at best" for Saturday against the Ducks. Reilly didn't sound too confident himself on Monday. He injured his hamstring on his catch that was called back after review against Wyoming.

"Brandon Reilly is still questionable at best," Riley said. "I don't know if he's going to be able to play. He didn't practice Thursday."

Jackson was a full go all week in practice. He will look to play a big factor against a spread offense that likes to utilize space.

KIERON WILLIAMS EARNS BLACKSHIRT

During the week before the season opener against Fresno State, 13 Blackshirts were awarded to the defense.

Surprisingly for many, safety Kieron

Williams did not receive a Blackshirt even though he was slotted to start.

Defensive coordinator Mark Banker talked about having to do it not just in practice but during games to earn a Blackshirt.

Well, with a team high 15 tackles and two interceptions, including a 23-yard interception returned for touchdown, through the first two games Williams walked into the locker room Tuesday before practice with a surprise.

There it was hanging at his locker. His coveted black jersey he has been patiently working so hard for.

"You talk about there being certain qualities of consistency, the manner in which you play, the time that you put in," Banker said. "Whether it's in the film room, the weight room, on the field and everything combined. In these first two weeks, he's made a great case for himself. He's taken advantage of an opportunity and the door was open for him to do that, and he walked right through it."

ARMSTRONG TALKS FAMILY

For the first time in his four-year career, Tommy Armstrong's mom and sisters watched a game at Memorial Stadium when the Huskers played Wyoming.

Armstrong said at first, his mom didn't believe the stadium could fill up enough for it to be sold out.

"It was incredible for them. My mom said that she didn't really know how it felt to be in the stands because I took them out here Friday before we had to meet to go to the hotel and we actually had a chance to just walk around this area," Armstrong said. "She was like 'Whoa, it looks smaller on TV.' She had a chance to look around here and she said 'It's gonna be all of these seats filled tomorrow?' And I was like, 'yeah, you're not gonna see an open seat when you get out here Saturday morning.' Her and my sisters got a chance to come out here, and it's been five years since I've been here and this is the first one that they've gotten a chance to come to and actually be a part of the fan base and be a part of the atmosphere."

Armstrong became the Huskers all-time passing touchdowns leader in the game. A memory he will never forget.

"I think they're actually coming up to two more games this year, so I'm excited for that but it was emotional for myself just being able to achieve some of the goals that I did that last game with my team but also with my mom and my

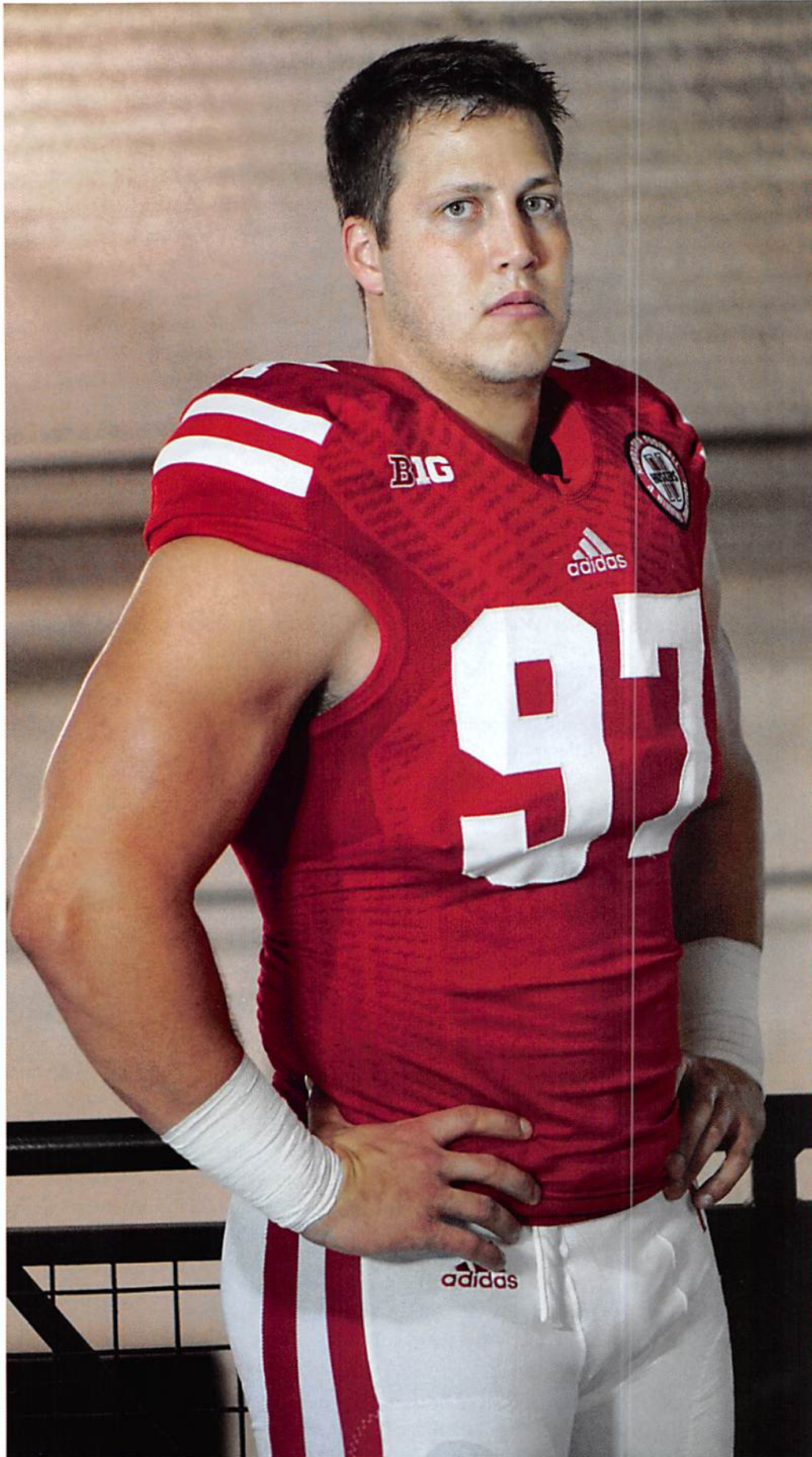


Tommy Armstrong Jr. drops back for a pass attempt against Oregon on Saturday.

sisters here,” Armstrong said. “Them getting to be a part of it being their first game here was a great experience for them. I just wanted them to enjoy the moment more than myself, because there’s not a lot of times that they get the chance to get away and come up here, so I’m glad that they were a part of it.”

His supportive family also played a big part in Armstrong picking Nebraska over Oregon. His final three came down to Oregon, Nebraska and Southern Miss.

“It was more of a distance thing for being far from my parents, this being a neutral point,” Armstrong said. “Definitely being able to come up here and see all of the things I could and being a part of this program and being a part of the atmosphere and things like that helped me make a better decision. That was what it was all about. How far from Mississippi and how far from Texas and being 14 hours from both of those areas was a neutral point for myself and my family, so it kind of helped my decision-making in that process.”



Former walk-on Logan Rath earned a scholarship earlier this fall.

Hometown Huskers

Long path leads Rath from eight-man Giltner to Huskers

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Jimmy Rash

SENIOR DEFENSIVE TACKLE Logan Rath's jump from high school to college football was more difficult than for most.

Before college, Rath played eight-man football in high school. He teamed up with former Iowa standout Drew Ott at Giltner High School to win a Class D2 state championship.

"Playing defensive line is pretty similar when you are an interior guy," Rath said of the difference between high school and college. "The speed was a little different as well. Guys themselves were a little faster, plays themselves were slower developing and other things that made it seem like a completely new sport. Terminology was a lot different so it was a mixed batch."

Rath committed to South Dakota State out of high school in 2012. He had a walk-on spot at Nebraska but was disappointed he didn't have a Husker scholarship offer.

"I didn't get an offer from Nebraska," Rath said. "I was a little upset about that and at the same time South Dakota State was my first offer. I liked my recruiting coach and I knew a lot of guys going there, so for those reasons along with financial, mostly financial, but a lot of things led me to go there."

It's an issue that NU head coach Mike Riley was fully aware of.

"We have talked about that more here in the last couple of months more than ever before because I think it was more prevalent back in the day, when more guys would make the choice to walk on here than possibly in the last decade or more," Riley said. "And that is understandable because you're talking a scholarship and all that. You are also talking about the rise of some of these programs that are close to here like North Dakota State and the other programs that are getting better."

"What we have talked about doing is continuing to get an earlier feel of who these guys are. And earlier, I am talking sophomore and be able to track that. Of course we want to be right on every guy that we scholarship that is local, but we also want to be ahead of the game on who that next group might be that we would really like to still have come here. And then it becomes from there kind of a personal choice for them. But what we want to do is be really well-educated, I guess is the best way to say it."

But as for many Huskers that went to a different university over walking on, it didn't take Rath a long time to realize what he was missing in Lincoln. After redshirting his first season for the Jackrabbits, he transferred to Nebraska.

"Halfway through the season, I really liked my teammates and I really liked my coaches but it took me a little while to realize it wasn't the same," Rath said. "Growing up here I knew what this was like. So this is where I wanted to be."

The jump was an easy one for Rath. The 2012 walk-on class was a year into their Husker careers and Rath knew many of those guys through high school football.

Rath said even though he was a year later, he puts himself in that special walk-on class.

"I would just because all the walk-on guys in my class, I either played in the Shrine Bowl against them or I knew them," Rath said. "I knew all of them pretty good to be honest with you. I

came back here a few times throughout the year and I ended up running into them and spending time together. A lot of them we have been friends since we graduated (high school)."

The guys welcomed him with open arms.

"It was kind of like a little reunion," Rath said.

Rath had to sit out the 2013 season because of transfer rules. His sophomore and junior season he provided depth behind NFL draftees Vincent Valentine and Maliek Collins.

This season, Rath cracked the two-deep in the depth chart with new defensive line coach John Parrella.

In the middle of fall camp, he was rewarded for his hard-work and determination.

Riley stopped him before practice and told him some good news.

"Coach Riley just casually told me as I was walking by to practice that I was placed on scholarship. There was no big event. It was just casual. The way it should be."

But that didn't stop Rath's excitement. Once he got to the locker room he texted his girlfriend and two friends to tell them the news. Rath waited to tell his family because he knew he was going to see them in less than 24 hours. And when he finally told his parents...

"They kind of looked like they got hit by a train because they weren't expecting it. They were so kind of taken back for a minute but then they were very, very happy."

Starting defensive tackle Mick Stoltenberg underwent arthroscopic knee surgery before the Wyoming game moving Rath up the depth chart.

Riley didn't hold back to who would step up when asked who could see more playing time against the Cowboys.

"Logan Rath is stepping in there, and Logan's had a good camp and is ready to go," Riley said.

Rath saw snaps throughout the game, especially late in the fourth quarter but this week could be another story.

With Stoltenberg's availability in question and a high-tempo offense coming into town, Rath's opportunities could expand Saturday against Oregon.

"This will definitely get me more reps in practice," Rath. "It'll give me a chance to sharpen up my craft and master my technique. Hopefully this will give me an opportunity to get a lot better this week."

An opportunity he jokingly said he hoped wouldn't happen.

"I hope we are getting three-and-outs and getting off the field so we don't need some subs but I think we all know how Oregon is," Rath said with a smirk. "They have a real high-tempo offense so I think a lot of guys in the two-deep will see decent time this week."

As for heading to South Dakota for financial reasons to coming back to walk-on at Nebraska, Rath said earning a scholarship has made things come full-circle.

"Everything is kind of worth it then," Rath said. "I achieved the goal I set out to achieve. So that was great."



2016 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Location | Results |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|---------|
| Sat, Sep 03 | Fresno State | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Sep 10 | Wyoming | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Sep 17 | Oregon | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Sep 24 | Northwestern * | at Evanston, Ill. | - |
| Sat, Oct 01 | Illinois * | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Oct 15 | Indiana * | at Bloomington, Ind. | - |
| Sat, Oct 22 | Purdue * | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Oct 29 | Wisconsin * | at Madison, Wis. | - |
| Sat, Nov 05 | Ohio State * | at Columbus, Ohio | - |
| Sat, Nov 12 | Minnesota * | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Nov 19 | Maryland * | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Fri, Nov 25 | Iowa * | at Iowa City, Iowa | - |

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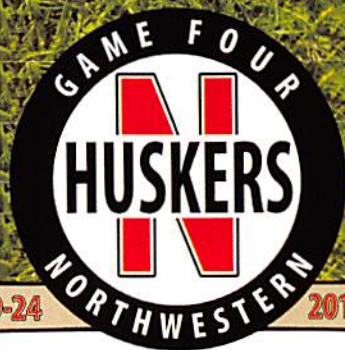
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2016 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ROSTER

| No | Name | Pos | Ht | Wt | Yr | Hometown | No | Name | Pos | Ht | Wt | Yr | Hometown |
|----|----------------------|------|------|-----|------|--|----|---------------------|-----|------|-----|------|---|
| 1 | Lamar Jackson | DB | 6-3 | 195 | Fr. | Elk Grove, Calif. (Franklin) | 41 | Luke McNitt | FB | 6-2 | 240 | Jr. | Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney)(Kearney) |
| 1 | Jordan Westerkamp | WR | 6-0 | 200 | Sr. | Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic) | 42 | Trey Foster | TE | 6-2 | 250 | Sr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 2 | Tony Butler | DB | 6-2 | 195 | Fr. | Lakewood, Ohio (St. Edward) | 43 | Tyrin Ferguson | LB | 6-2 | 225 | So. | New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr) |
| 2 | Zack Darlington | WR | 6-2 | 195 | So. | Apopka, Fla. (Apopka) | 44 | Todd Honas | WR | 5-11 | 200 | Fr. | Aurora, Neb. (Aurora) |
| 3 | Lavan Alston Jr. | WR | 6-0 | 175 | RFr. | Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure) | 44 | Mitch McCann | FB | 6-0 | 240 | Sr. | Omaha, Neb. (Burke) |
| 3 | Marcus Newby | LB | 6-1 | 235 | Jr. | North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard) | 44 | Mick Stoltenberg | DL | 6-5 | 290 | So. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) |
| 4 | Avery Anderson | S | 6-0 | 185 | RFr. | Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs)) | 45 | Ty Chaffin | WR | 6-5 | 200 | Fr. | Burwell, Neb. (Burwell) |
| 4 | Tommy Armstrong Jr. | QB | 6-1 | 220 | Sr. | Cibola, Texas (Steele) | 45 | A.J. Natter | DE | 6-5 | 260 | Jr. | Milton, Wis. (Milton) |
| 5 | Dedrick Young II | LB | 6-1 | 220 | So. | Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial) | 47 | Brandon Hohenstein | TE | 6-4 | 205 | Fr. | Jackson, Neb. (Bishop Heelan) |
| 6 | Eric Lee Jr. | CB | 6-0 | 190 | RFr. | Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado)) | 47 | Matt Jarzynka | DE | 6-4 | 255 | So. | Loup City, Neb. (Loup City) |
| 7 | Mohamed Barry | LB | 6-1 | 220 | RFr. | Grayson, Ga. (Grayson) | 48 | Erik Evans | DE | 6-3 | 255 | Jr. | Waverly, Neb. (Waverly) |
| 8 | Chris Jones | CB | 6-0 | 185 | Jr. | Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood) | 49 | Austin Hemphill | FB | 6-0 | 220 | RFr. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) |
| 8 | Stanley Morgan Jr. | WR | 6-1 | 200 | So. | New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine) | 49 | Chris Weber | LB | 6-3 | 230 | Jr. | Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn) |
| 9 | DaiShon Neal | DE | 6-7 | 270 | RFr. | Houston, Texas (Omaha Central) | 50 | Garret Johns | DL | 6-0 | 285 | Sr. | Aurora, Neb. (Aurora) |
| 9 | Keyan Williams | WR | 5-10 | 195 | So. | New Orleans, La. (Fresno State) (Lusher) | 50 | John Raridon | OL | 6-4 | 275 | Fr. | West Des Moines, Iowa (Valley) |
| 10 | Joshua Kalu | CB | 6-1 | 190 | Jr. | Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor) | 51 | Jared Bruggmann | LB | 6-2 | 235 | RFr. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) |
| 10 | JD Spielman | WR | 5-9 | 180 | Fr. | Eden Prairie, Minn. (Eden Prairie) | 52 | Josh Banderas | LB | 6-3 | 240 | Sr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest) |
| 11 | Cethan Carter | TE | 6-4 | 240 | Sr. | New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel) | 53 | Alex Boryca | LB | 6-2 | 220 | So. | Cozad, Neb. (Cozad) |
| 11 | Boaz Joseph | CB | 6-1 | 190 | Jr. | Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay) | 54 | Creighton Hamik | LB | 6-3 | 210 | Fr. | Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic) |
| 12 | Luke Gifford | LB | 6-3 | 230 | So. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) | 54 | Jordan Ober | LS | 6-1 | 205 | So. | Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman) |
| 12 | Patrick O'Brien | QB | 6-4 | 230 | Fr. | San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (San Juan Hills) | 54 | Robby Painter | OL | 6-5 | 300 | Sr. | Centennial, Colo. (Grandview) |
| 13 | JoJo Domann | DB | 6-1 | 205 | Fr. | Colorado Springs, Colo. (Pine Creek) | 55 | Kevin Maurice | DT | 6-3 | 300 | Sr. | Orlando, Fla. (Freedom) |
| 13 | Tanner Lee | QB | 6-4 | 205 | Jr. | Destrehan, La. (Tulane) (Jesuit) | 56 | Brad Simpson | LB | 6-0 | 230 | Sr. | Omaha, Neb. (Ralston) |
| 14 | Kyle Kasun | DB | 6-0 | 180 | RFr. | Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South) | 56 | Boe Wilson | OL | 6-3 | 295 | Fr. | Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit West) |
| 15 | De'Mornay Pierson-El | WR | 5-9 | 185 | Jr. | Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac) | 57 | Jacob Weinmaster | LB | 6-0 | 215 | RFr. | Loveland, Colo. (Loveland) |
| 15 | Michael Rose-Ivey | LB | 6-0 | 230 | Sr. | Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst) | 58 | Joel Lopez | DL | 6-2 | 280 | Jr. | Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central) |
| 16 | Antonio Reed | S | 6-2 | 220 | So. | Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.)) | 58 | Corey Whitaker | OL | 6-5 | 295 | Sr. | Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta) |
| 17 | Ryker Fyfe | QB | 6-3 | 215 | Sr. | Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island) | 59 | Brody Cleveland | LB | 6-2 | 225 | RFr. | Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala) |
| 17 | Sedrick King | DE | 6-4 | 250 | So. | Plant City, Fla. (Plant City) | 61 | Bryan Brokop | OL | 6-5 | 275 | Fr. | New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way West) |
| 18 | Tre Bryant | IB | 5-11 | 200 | Fr. | St. Louis, Mo. (Christian Brothers College) | 62 | Cole Conrad | OL | 6-5 | 305 | So. | Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan) |
| 19 | Marquel Dismuke | DB | 6-2 | 180 | Fr. | Calabasas, Calif. (Calabasas) | 63 | Tanner Farmer | OL | 6-4 | 295 | So. | Highland, Ill. (Highland) |
| 21 | Charles Jackson | DB | 5-11 | 180 | Sr. | Spring, Texas (Klein Collins) | 65 | Christian Gaylord | OL | 6-6 | 300 | RFr. | Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City) |
| 21 | Mikale Wilbon | IB | 5-9 | 195 | So. | Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute) | 66 | Dylan Utter | OL | 6-1 | 295 | Sr. | Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista) |
| 22 | Alex Davis | DE | 6-5 | 255 | RFr. | Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer) | 67 | Jerald Foster | OL | 6-3 | 310 | So. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 22 | Devine Ozigbo | IB | 5-11 | 230 | So. | Sachse, Texas (Sachse) | 68 | Nick Gates | OL | 6-5 | 290 | So. | Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman) |
| 23 | Dicaprio Bootle | DB | 5-10 | 180 | Fr. | Miami, Fla. (Southridge) | 71 | Matt Farniok | OL | 6-6 | 300 | Fr. | Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington) |
| 23 | Austin Rose | IB | 6-1 | 225 | So. | Lincoln, Neb. (North Star) | 72 | Zach Hannon | OL | 6-5 | 315 | Jr. | Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst) |
| 24 | Aaron Williams | S | 5-11 | 185 | So. | Atlanta, Ga. (Carver) | 73 | Sam Hahn | OL | 6-7 | 300 | Sr. | DeWitt, Neb. (No. Dakota St.)(Tri-County) |
| 25 | Nathan Gerry | S | 6-2 | 220 | Sr. | Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington) | 74 | Jalin Barnett | OL | 6-4 | 310 | RFr. | Lawton, Okla. (Lawton) |
| 26 | Thomas Connelly | LB | 5-11 | 220 | So. | Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic) | 75 | Fyn Anderson | DL | 6-3 | 260 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 26 | Brad Pelzer | WR | 5-11 | 185 | So. | Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East) | 76 | Dwayne Johnson Jr. | OL | 6-6 | 300 | Jr. | Houston, Texas (Bellaire) |
| 26 | Jamie Sutcliffe | PK | 6-2 | 190 | Sr. | Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College)(Thousand Oaks) | 76 | Dylan Owen | DL | 6-5 | 240 | So. | Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy)(Somers) |
| 26 | Kieron Williams | S | 6-1 | 195 | Jr. | Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep)(C.E. Byrd) | 77 | David Knevel | OL | 6-9 | 315 | Jr. | Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate) |
| 27 | Sam Foltz | P | 6-2 | 205 | Sr. | Greeley, Neb. (Grand Island) | 79 | Michael Decker | OL | 6-4 | 285 | RFr. | Omaha, Neb. (North) |
| 28 | Eli Sullivan | DB | 6-2 | 190 | Jr. | Longmont, Colo. (Longmont) | 80 | Brett Classen | WR | 6-2 | 205 | Jr. | Medina, Minn. (Winona State)(Wayzata) |
| 28 | Adam Taylor | IB | 6-2 | 210 | Jr. | Katy, Texas (Katy) | 81 | Gabe Rahn | WR | 6-1 | 195 | Jr. | Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars) |
| 29 | Nolan Graham | DB | 5-11 | 200 | So. | Firth, Neb. (Norris) | 82 | Alonzo Moore | WR | 6-2 | 195 | Sr. | Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior) |
| 29 | Graham Nabity | IB | 6-1 | 210 | Sr. | Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn) | 83 | David Engelhaupt | TE | 6-3 | 230 | Fr. | Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic) |
| 30 | Quayshon Alexander | LB | 6-3 | 235 | Fr. | Prospect Park, N.J. (De Paul Catholic) | 83 | Bryan Reimers | WR | 6-5 | 210 | So. | Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East) |
| 30 | Bo Kitrell | FB | 6-1 | 225 | So. | Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood) | 84 | Sam Cotton | TE | 6-5 | 250 | Sr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 31 | Greg Simmons | LB | 6-2 | 240 | Fr. | Fort Pierce, Fla. (Fort Pierce Central) | 85 | Matt Snyder | TE | 6-5 | 255 | RFr. | San Ramon, Calif. (California) |
| 31 | Conor Young | WR | 6-2 | 170 | RFr. | Cozad, Neb. (Cozad) | 86 | Jack Stoll | TE | 6-4 | 235 | Fr. | Lone Tree, Colo. (Regis Jesuit) |
| 32 | Tanner Hass | RB | 6-0 | 195 | Fr. | West Point, Neb. (Guardian Angels) | 87 | Brandon Reilly | WR | 6-2 | 200 | Sr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest) |
| 32 | Pernell Jefferson | LB | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. | New Orleans, La. (Warren Easton) | 88 | Ross Dzuris | DE | 6-3 | 255 | Sr. | Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth) |
| 33 | Christian Bailey | WR | 6-0 | 205 | Jr. | San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente) | 88 | Tyler Hoppes | TE | 6-4 | 240 | Jr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne St.)(Southwest) |
| 33 | Tanner Zlab | DB | 5-10 | 195 | Sr. | Wilber, Neb. (Doane)(Wilber-Clatonia) | 89 | Connor Ketter | TE | 6-5 | 245 | Jr. | Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic) |
| 34 | Drew Brown | PK | 5-11 | 195 | Jr. | Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll) | 91 | Freedom Akinmoladun | DE | 6-4 | 255 | So. | Grandview, Mo. (Grandview) |
| 34 | Terrell Newby | IB | 5-10 | 200 | Sr. | Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade) | 92 | Chase Urbach | LS | 6-3 | 200 | RFr. | Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South) |
| 35 | Caleb Lightbourn | P/PK | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Washougal, Wash. (Camas) | 94 | Khalil Davis | DT | 6-2 | 290 | RFr. | Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs) |
| 35 | Jeremiah Stovall | DB | 5-11 | 175 | RFr. | Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep) | 95 | Spencer Lindsay | PK | 5-9 | 210 | Sr. | Kearney, Neb. (Kearney) |
| 36 | Spencer Jordan | FB | 6-2 | 215 | Fr. | Omaha, Neb. (Westside) | 95 | Ben Stille | DE | 6-5 | 240 | Fr. | Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood) |
| 36 | Reid Karel | DB | 6-3 | 205 | RFr. | Seward, Neb. (Seward) | 96 | Carlos Davis | DT | 6-2 | 295 | RFr. | Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs) |
| 37 | Wyatt Mazour | IB | 5-9 | 190 | RFr. | Albion, Neb. (Boone Central) | 97 | Logan Rath | DT | 6-4 | 280 | Sr. | Giltner, Neb. (So. Dakota St.)(Giltner) |
| 38 | Harrison Jordan | FB | 5-10 | 230 | Jr. | Omaha, Neb. (Westside) | 98 | Isaac Armstrong | P | 5-11 | 195 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Kearney) (Southwest) |
| 39 | Donovan McDonald | WR | 5-11 | 175 | RFr. | Montclair, N.J. (Fork Union Military Academy)(Montclair) | 98 | Collin Miller | DE | 6-3 | 235 | Fr. | Fishers, Ind. (Hamilton Southeastern) |
| 39 | Jordan Nelson | IB | 5-8 | 180 | Sr. | Omaha, Neb. (Burke) | 99 | Peyton Newell | DT | 6-3 | 290 | So. | Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha) |
| 40 | Ty Betka | WR | 5-7 | 165 | Fr. | Superior, Neb. (Drake) | | Jake Kitten | OL | 6-2 | 290 | Fr. | Santee, Calif. (Santana) |
| 40 | Grant Jordan | LB | 6-2 | 205 | Sr. | Omaha, Neb. (Westside) | | Sean Lambert | IB | 6-0 | 200 | Fr. | Fremont, Neb. (Fremont) |
| 41 | Noah Johnson | IB | 6-0 | 210 | RFr. | Sutton, Neb. (Sutton) | | Ne'Land Smith | WR | 6-3 | 190 | Fr. | Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs) |



2016 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 Western Michigan L, 22-21
 Sept. 10 Illinois State L, 9-7
 Sept. 17 Duke W, 24-13

Sept. 24 Nebraska

Oct. 1 @ Iowa
 Oct. 15 @ Michigan State
 Oct. 22 Indiana
 Oct. 29 @ Ohio State
 Nov. 5 Wisconsin
 Nov. 12 @ Purdue
 Nov. 19 @ Minnesota
 Nov. 26 Illinois

2015 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Stanford W, 16-6
 Eastern Illinois W, 41-0
 @ Duke W, 19-10
 Ball State W, 24-19
 Minnesota W, 27-0
 @ Michigan L, 38-0
 Iowa L, 40-10
 @ Nebraska W, 30-28
 Penn State W, 23-21
 Purdue W, 21-14
 @ Wisconsin W, 13-7
 @ Illinois* L, 24-14
 Tennessee** L, 45-6

* Soldier Field in Chicago

** Outback Bowl

COACH PAT FITZGERALD

Fitzgerald is in his 11th season as the head coach of Northwestern. He is 71-58 overall with six bowl appearances.

Fitzgerald bleeds purple being a former All-American for the Wildcats. So he has the passion and dedication to make his alma mater successful and competitive. That also translates to the classroom. A record 39 football players made the Academic All-Big Ten team en route to a program-record 3.14 GPA for the 2015-16 academic year.

Expect to see Fitzgerald on the Northwestern sidelines for the foreseeable future as he is in the midst of a 10-year deal that keeps him as head coach through 2020.



Anthony Walker Jr.

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos Courtesy of Northwestern Athletics

Close Games are the Norm

Four out of the last five games between the Wildcats and Huskers were decided by three points or less.

But the last time these two hooked up in Evanston, Illinois, Nebraska won by three touchdowns (38-17).

Nebraska is feeling good after beating nationally-ranked Oregon, while the Wildcats have gotten a little momentum after beating Duke at home.

Northwestern may only be 1-2, but they have lost those two games by a combined three points.

I expect a game much like it was two years ago, where it was close through three quarters and then the Huskers pull away in the fourth.

Prediction: Nebraska 37, Northwestern 24

Offensive Preview

Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4

Offense: Spread

Outlook: The Wildcat offense was in need of more production after their first two games of the season against Western Michigan and Illinois State. With only 14 points per game NU needed to find something positive and they may have

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finally gotten that in their 24-13 win against Duke.

Quarterback Clayton Thorson and running back Justin Jackson are the main weapons for the Wildcats and they had big games against the Blue Devils.

Thorson threw for 320 yards and three touchdowns. His main target was Austin Carr who caught six balls for 135 yards and one score.

Jackson had 94 yards rushing for the game. He has had back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons and ranks sixth in program history with 2,605 career rushing yards.

Defensive Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

7/4

Defense: Multiple 4-3

Outlook: The offense may have problems, but the defense has held its own. It is led by one of the all-time Wildcat defensive greats in linebacker Anthony Walker Jr.

He was a second-team All-American last year and should at least duplicate that again this season.

"I think he has a chance to be the best (linebacker) we've ever had," said NU head coach Pat Fitzgerald. "And we've had some pretty good ones."

Northwestern is stingy on defense, giving up just under 15 points per game but they haven't faced great offensive competition yet.

Special Teams Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

4/1

The Wildcats return their kickers, long snapper and



Justin Jackson

kickoff returner. The most dangerous is Solomon Vault who was a third team All-Big Ten return specialist in 2015. He set an NU record with two kick returns touchdowns last season.

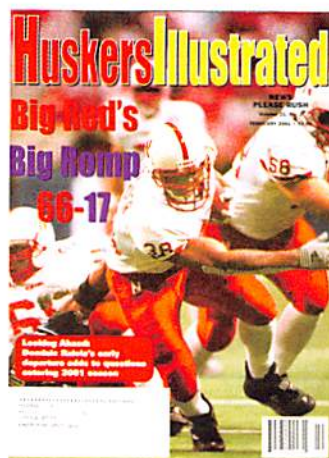
Placekicker Jack Mitchell is only 1-3 on field goal attempts this year but punter Hunter Niswander has been a weapon averaging 45 yards per punt.

Did You Know?

After significant victories, the student section would tear down the goalposts and toss them into Lake Michigan. When Ryan field was built, the playing field was purposely lowered 5 feet below the lowest section to prevent students from storming the field. This is no longer practiced, since Northwestern fans are waiting for a

national title to revive the activity. — Wikipedia

A Look Back



Nebraska 66, Northwestern 17
Dec. 30, 2000 in San Antonio

The Alamo Bowl contest between No. 9 Nebraska and 18th-ranked Northwestern looked like a mismatch on paper and that is how it

played out on the field.

The Huskers were No. 1 in the nation for seven weeks during the season and they proved why they held that ranking against the Wildcats.

After falling behind 10-7 in the first quarter, the Huskers outscored Northwestern 59-7 the rest of the way.

Nebraska was relentless in its attack, setting several Alamo Bowl records and didn't call off the dogs until the fourth quarter.

Husker I-back Dan Alexander ran for one of those records with 240 yards on only 20 carries. That helped add to another Alamo Bowl mark of 636 yards of total offense.

"We came out with a purpose," said Husker middle linebacker Carlos Polk. "We knew they couldn't hang with us, that they shouldn't have been on the same field with us."

Nebraska played like a team that was worthy of a top-5 ranking but was only able to move up to 7/8 in the national polls.

Fast Facts

Location: Evanston, Illinois
Enrollment: 8,688
First Year of football: 1882
National Championships: 0
Conference Titles: 8
Stadium: Ryan Field
Stadium Capacity: 47,130
Nickname: Wildcats
Mascot: Willie the Wildcat
Colors: Purple and White
2015 Record: 10-3, 6-2
Conference: Big Ten



NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

2016 FOOTBALL ROSTER



| No | Name | Pos | Ht | Wt | Yr. | Hometown | No | Name | Pos | Ht | Wt | Yr. | Hometown |
|----|--------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 1 | Anthony Walker Jr. | LB | 6-1 | 245 | JR | Miami, FL | 47 | Joe Bergin | DB | 5-11 | 190 | FR | Bloomfield Hills, MI |
| 3 | Keith Watkins II | CB | 5-11 | 187 | JR | Cincinnati, OH | 48 | Cody Link | FB | 6-5 | 206 | FR | Madison, WI |
| 4 | Solomon Vault | WR | 5-10 | 190 | JR | Gaithersburg, MD | 48 | Tommy Odell | S | 5-11 | 196 | JR | River Forest, IL |
| 5 | Charlie Fessler | WR | 6-4 | 215 | FR | Erie, PA | 49 | Josh Roberts | LB | 6-1 | 215 | JR | Wamego, KS |
| 6 | Jelani Roberts | WR | 5-8 | 166 | SO | Owings Mills, MD | 50 | Jango Glackin | LB | 6-2 | 210 | FR | Lebanon, OH |
| 7 | Matt Alviti | QB | 6-0 | 200 | JR | Park Ridge, IL | 51 | Jaylen Prater | LB | 6-0 | 230 | SR | Hamden, OH |
| 7 | Ifeadi Odenigbo | DL | 6-3 | 265 | SR | Centerville, OH | 52 | Chris Fitzpatrick | LS | 6-2 | 235 | SR | Lawrenceburg, KY |
| 8 | Jack Mitchell | PK | 6-3 | 210 | SR | San Diego, CA | 53 | Cameron Queiro | LB | 6-1 | 237 | SO | Verona, NJ |
| 9 | Garrett Dickerson | FB | 6-3 | 240 | JR | Englewood, NJ | 54 | Trent Goens | DL | 6-3 | 250 | FR | Chino Hills, CA |
| 10 | TJ Green | QB | 6-2 | 199 | FR | Leawood, KS | 55 | Mark Gooden | DE | 6-2 | 230 | FR | Reynoldsburg, OH |
| 10 | Brett Walsh | LB | 6-1 | 215 | JR | Monrovia, CA | 56 | Xavier Washington | DE | 6-1 | 243 | JR | Cedar Hill, TX |
| 11 | Matthew Harris | CB | 5-11 | 184 | SR | LaGrange Highlands, IL | 57 | Cam Kolwich | OL | 6-4 | 265 | FR | Beverly Hills, MI |
| 11 | Aidan Smith | QB | 6-2 | 200 | FR | Fort Wayne, IN | 59 | J.B. Butler | OL | 6-3 | 300 | SO | Plainfield, IL |
| 12 | Auston Anderson | RB | 5-9 | 190 | SO | Plano, TX | 61 | Jason Goosen | OL | 6-8 | 305 | FR | Virginia Beach, VA |
| 13 | Warren Long | RB | 6-0 | 210 | SR | Union City, CA | 62 | Trevor Stroebel | LS | 6-4 | 220 | SR | Saukville, WI |
| 14 | Jake Murray | DB | 6-3 | 205 | FR | Coppell, TX | 63 | Ian Park | OL | 6-4 | 305 | SR | Pittsburgh, PA |
| 14 | Lloyd Yates | QB | 6-2 | 207 | FR | Oak Park, IL | 64 | Andrew Otterman | OL | 6-5 | 295 | FR | Morristown, NJ |
| 15 | Macan Wilson | WR | 6-0 | 186 | JR | Houston, TX | 65 | Jared Thomas | OL | 6-4 | 290 | FR | Indianapolis, IN |
| 16 | Quinn Baker | WR | 5-11 | 195 | JR | Trout Valley, IL | 66 | Nik Urban | OL | 6-3 | 291 | FR | Willoughby, OH |
| 16 | Godwin Igwebuike | S | 6-0 | 205 | JR | Pickerington, OH | 67 | Tyler Lancaster | DL | 6-3 | 310 | JR | Romeoville, IL |
| 17 | Daniel Kubiuk | QB | 6-1 | 200 | SO | Barrington, IL | 68 | Connor Mahoney | OL | 6-4 | 285 | SR | Malvern, PA |
| 17 | Marcus McShepard | WR | 5-11 | 200 | JR | University Heights, OH | 69 | Brad North | OL | 6-2 | 290 | JR | Allen, TX |
| 18 | Clayton Thorson | QB | 6-4 | 220 | SO | Wheaton, IL | 70 | Shane Mertz | OL | 6-8 | 300 | SR | Hazlet, NJ |
| 19 | Jayme Taylor | FB | 6-4 | 235 | SO | The Woodlands, TX | 71 | Tommy Doles | OL | 6-6 | 295 | SO | Grand Rapids, MI |
| 20 | John Moten IV | RB | 6-0 | 202 | FR | St. Louis, MO | 72 | Blake Hance | OL | 6-5 | 305 | SO | Jacksonville, IL |
| 21 | Justin Jackson | RB | 5-11 | 193 | JR | Carol Stream, IL | 73 | Gunnar Vogel | OL | 6-6 | 286 | FR | Columbus, OH |
| 21 | Kyle Queiro | S | 6-3 | 200 | JR | Verona, NJ | 74 | Graham Bullmore | OL | 6-7 | 295 | JR | Kenosha, WI |
| 22 | Parker Westphal | DB | 6-1 | 198 | SO | Bolingbrook, IL | 75 | Ben Oxley | OL | 6-6 | 291 | SO | Avon Lake, OH |
| 23 | Steven Reese | WR | 6-2 | 200 | FR | Buford, GA | 76 | Eric Olson | OL | 6-6 | 305 | SR | Sudbury, MA |
| 24 | Montre Hartage | CB | 6-0 | 190 | SO | Cordele, GA | 77 | Jesse Meyler | OL | 6-5 | 290 | FR | Toronto, ON |
| 25 | Corey Acker | RB | 5-9 | 175 | JR | Ballston Lake, NY | 78 | Adam Lemke-Bell | OL | 6-5 | 285 | FR | Oak Park, IL |
| 26 | Brian Bullock | DB | 5-11 | 185 | FR | Round Rock, TX | 79 | Sam Coverdale | OL | 6-7 | 305 | JR | Chagrin Falls, OH |
| 26 | Chad Hanaoka | RB | 5-10 | 175 | JR | Honolulu, HI | 80 | Austin Carr | WR | 6-1 | 200 | SR | Benicia, CA |
| 27 | Roderick Campbell | DB | 6-0 | 180 | FR | St. Louis, MO | 81 | Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman | WR | 6-2 | 193 | FR | Minneapolis, MN |
| 28 | Jeremy Larkin | RB | 5-10 | 175 | FR | Cincinnati, OH | 82 | Andrew Scanlan | WR | 6-2 | 215 | SR | Royersford, PA |
| 28 | Alonzo Mayo | DB | 5-11 | 170 | FR | Baltimore, MD | 83 | Heath Reineke | DL | 6-3 | 235 | SO | Ashland, OH |
| 29 | Trae Williams | DB | 5-11 | 200 | FR | The Plains, OH | 84 | Cameron Green | WR | 6-3 | 210 | FR | Buffalo Grove, IL |
| 31 | Tommy Vitale | LB | 6-3 | 220 | SO | Wheaton, IL | 85 | Jack Tirmonia | WR | 6-3 | 190 | FR | Canton, OH |
| 32 | Nate Hall | LB | 6-2 | 230 | SO | Toledo, OH | 86 | Riley Lees | WR | 6-0 | 190 | FR | Libertyville, IL |
| 33 | Matt Micucci | PK | 5-11 | 190 | SR | Lake Zurich, IL | 86 | Flynn Nagel | WR | 5-11 | 181 | SO | Lemont, IL |
| 33 | Travis Whillock | DB | 6-0 | 180 | FR | Katy, TX | 87 | Eric Eshoo | FB | 6-4 | 225 | FR | Chicago, IL |
| 34 | Simba Short | LB | 6-2 | 210 | FR | Brentwood, CA | 88 | Ben Skowronek | WR | 6-4 | 210 | FR | Fort Wayne, IN |
| 35 | Tom Hruby | LB | 6-3 | 240 | SR | Crown Point, IN | 89 | Cole Johnson | WR | 6-1 | 201 | JR | Avon, IN |
| 36 | Jesse Brown | RB | 5-11 | 192 | FR | Lilburn, GA | 90 | C.J. Robbins | DL | 6-5 | 305 | SR | Peru, IL |
| 38 | Drew Luckenbaugh | PK | 6-1 | 200 | FR | Spring Grove, PA | 92 | Fred Wyatt | DL | 6-4 | 285 | SO | Lawrence, KS |
| 39 | Mason Weissenhofer | PK | 6-2 | 185 | FR | Plainfield, IL | 93 | Greg Kuhar | DL | 6-3 | 309 | SR | Concord Township, OH |
| 40 | Paddy Fisher | LB | 6-3 | 235 | FR | Katy, TX | 94 | Tommy Carnifax | DE | 6-4 | 253 | FR | Warren, OH |
| 41 | Jared McGee | S | 6-1 | 215 | SO | Mansfield, TX | 95 | Alex Miller | DL | 6-3 | 260 | FR | Houston, TX |
| 42 | Joseph Jones | LB | 6-1 | 235 | SR | Plano, IL | 96 | Hunter Niswander | P | 6-5 | 252 | JR | Peninsula, OH |
| 43 | Tyler Gillikin | LS | 6-3 | 205 | FR | Atlanta, GA | 97 | Joe Gaziano | DL | 6-4 | 265 | FR | Scituate, MA |
| 44 | James Prather | FB | 6-4 | 230 | SO | Memphis, TN | 98 | Jake Saunders | DT | 6-3 | 296 | FR | Loveland, OH |
| 45 | Nathan Fox | LB | 6-2 | 245 | FR | Houston, TX | 99 | Jordan Thompson | DL | 6-3 | 290 | SO | Cincinnati, OH |
| 46 | Eric Lutzen | FB | 6-6 | 235 | SO | Pewaukee, WI | | | | | | | |

How Nebraska's Opponents Fared in Week Three

Sept. 3

Fresno State (1-2)

Toledo 52, Fresno State 17

The Rockets stormed out to a 38-0 lead in the middle of the third quarter before Fresno State tallied the scoreboard. The Bulldogs couldn't stop Toledo's air attack. Toledo quarterback Logan Woodside threw for 239 yards and four touchdowns to lead the way.

Sept. 10

Wyoming (2-1)

Wyoming 45, UC-Davis 22

Wyoming running back Brian Hill moved to third all-time on the Cowboys rushing list with his 207-yard rushing performance. Quarterback Josh Allen added 198 yards and three touchdowns through the air. Aggies quarterback Ben Scott left the game in the fourth quarter with an injury to his left leg.

Sept. 24

Northwestern (1-2)

Northwestern 24, Duke 13

The Wildcats notched their first victory of the season. The offense put together a balanced four quarters. Quarterback Cody Thorson threw for 320 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Running back Justin Jackson added 94 yards on 28 carries after leaving last week's game with an injury.

Oct. 1

Illinois (1-2)

Western Michigan 34, Illinois 10

After beating Northwestern last week, the Broncos won against their second-straight Big 10 opponent. Western Michigan opened up with a 21-0 lead late in the second quarter and held Illinois to three yards rushing while rushing for 287 yards. Illinois quarterback Wes Lunt threw for 312 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Oct. 15

Indiana (2-0)

Bye

In its last game, the Hoosiers went up 30-0 until late in the third quarter. Ball State scored 20-straight points but the game never got close enough for Indiana to take the comeback seriously and won 30-20. Quarterback Richard Lagow went 17 of 28 for 266 yards and three touchdowns in his home debut and the Hoosier defense forced three Cardinal turnovers in the victory.

Oct. 22

Purdue (1-1)

Bye

In its last game, Purdue was trying to start a season 2-0 for the first time since 2007, but fell 38-20 to Cincinnati. Quarterback David Blough threw five interceptions that led to three touchdowns for Cincinnati and the Boilermaker de-

fense failed to stop the Bearcats on third down. Cincinnati converted 12 of its 14 third-down attempts. Blough still was able to pass for 401 yards and two touchdowns in the loss.

Oct. 29

Wisconsin (3-0)

Wisconsin 23, Georgia State 17

Wisconsin decided to make a switch late in the third quarter. Up 6-0, Badgers head coach Paul Chryst benched starting quarterback Bart Houston. Backup Alex Hornibrook led the offense to three scoring drives after taking over to squeak past the Panthers. Hornibrook threw for 122 yards, a touchdown and an interception, in just over a quarter of action. Running back Corey Clement did not suit up for the Badgers.

Nov. 5

Ohio State (3-0)

Ohio State 45, Oklahoma 24

The Buckeyes scored early and often. They entered halftime with a 35-17 lead and didn't look back. The Sooners couldn't stop the Ohio State offense. Quarterback JT Barrett threw for 152 yards and four touchdowns while running back Mike Weber ran for 123 yards on 18 carries.

Nov. 12

Minnesota (2-0)

Bye

In its last game – a 58-28 win over Indiana State – the Gophers jumped out to a 38-7 lead at halftime, scoring on five touchdowns and a field goal in their first seven possessions. Quarterback Mitch Leidner threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns before being taken out at the beginning of the fourth quarter. The 58-point outing by the Gophers is the most in a game since 2006.

Nov. 19

Maryland (3-0)

Maryland 30, Central Florida 24 (2OT)

Central Florida took Maryland to double overtime but it wasn't enough. After quarterback Perry Hills left in double overtime with a shoulder injury, backup Tyrrell Pigrome took his first snap under center for 24 yards for the game-winning touchdown. Hills went 10 of 23 for 127 yards before the injury.

Nov. 25

Iowa (2-1)

North Dakota State 23, Iowa 21

With 4:41 left in the game, the Bison drew within 21-20, but failed a two-point conversion attempt that would have given them the win. After getting the ball back with a 1:44 left, the Bison stunned the Hawkeyes with a 37-yard game winning field goal as time expired. The North Dakota defense held Iowa to 34 rushing yards on 25 carries. Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard threw for 152 yards, three touchdowns and an interception.

This Week In Husker History

Sept. 20, 1997

Story by Kevin Houck • Huskers Illustrated Archives

This week in Husker history, we jump back to Sept. 20, 1997. After Nebraska couldn't reach the National Championship in back-to-back-to-back years in 1996, they entered the 1997 ranked sixth in the AP poll.

After beating Akron, 59-14, and squeezing past Central Florida, 38-24, at home, the Huskers dropped to seventh in the polls with a tough test ahead of them.

The Huskers traveled to Seattle to face second-ranked Washington on Sept. 20. The Huskies were a touchdown favorite heading into the game.

Washington took the opening kickoff and marched the ball down into the Husker red zone. After stopping the Huskies on third and two, Washington sent out their field goal unit to try and take an early lead.

The field goal was no good and the Huskers took over at their own 20-yard line.

Quarterback Scott Frost and the Husker offense took the field for their first drive of the game. Nebraska turned to its power-running game on a 6 play, 80-yard drive, capped off by a 34-yard touchdown run by Frost.

On Nebraska's second drive of the game, the offense continued to run right at the Huskies defense. A 30-yard touchdown run by Frost ended a 10 play, 56-yard drive to put the Huskers up 14-0 in the first quarter.

Midway through the second quarter, running back Ahman Green jumped into the touchdown parade.

A four-yard touchdown run extended the Huskers lead to 21-0.

The Huskies scored their first points of the game before halftime after the nation's top ranked passer Brock Huard left the game with an ankle injury.

Husker defensive end Grant Wistrom got tangled up with Huard in the backfield.

Washington backup quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo drove the Huskies 62 yards in four plays, completing a 12-yard touchdown pass to Cameron Cleeland with less than two-minutes remaining in first half.

The Huskers went into halftime with a 21-7 lead.

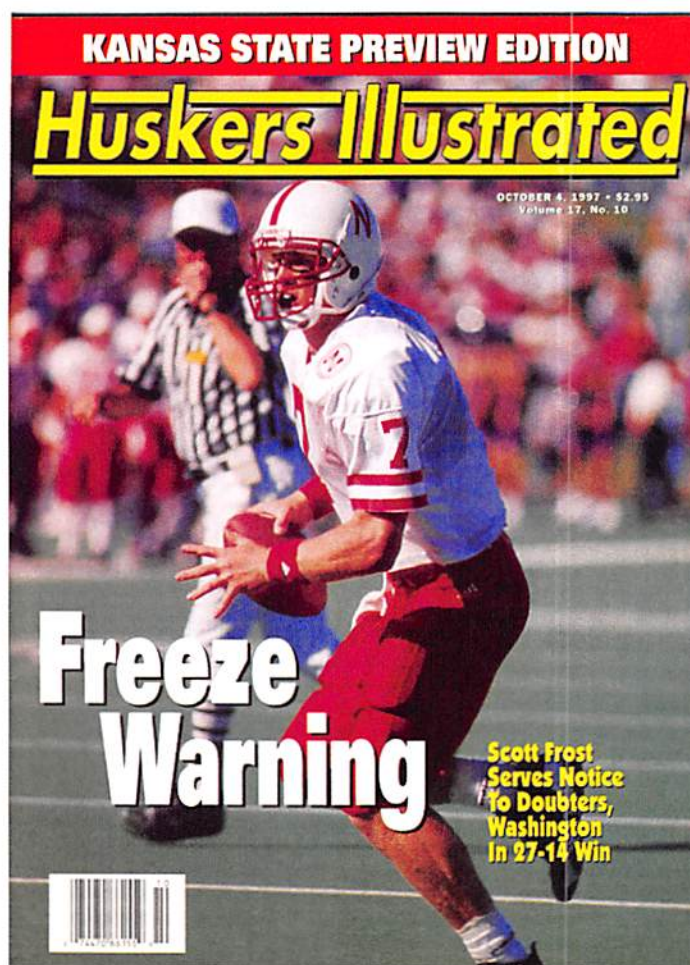
Washington struck again late in the third quarter. A 54-yard pass to Jerome Pathon and a 12-yard completion to Cleeland set the Huskies up at the Husker one-yard line. Tuiasosopo completed the 76-yard drive with a touchdown pass to Mike Reed with 2:49 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Huskies took a big gamble and tried an onside kick, which rolled out of bounds.

Frost then moved the Huskers into position for a 20-yard field goal by kicker Kris Brown to extend the Huskers lead to 24-14 early in the fourth quarter.

Brown added a 31-yard field goal with 2:25 remaining in the game to secure the 27-14 victory over the second ranked Huskies.

The Huskers out rushed the Huskies 384-43. Washington in



Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost helped the Huskers defeat No. 2 Washington 27-14 at Seattle, Wa. Nebraska went on to win a share of the national title this season.

their first two games allowed an average of minus 2.5 yards a game on the ground before the Huskers came to town.

Green and Makovicka both went over the century mark. They each ran for 129 yards a piece. Frost added 97 yards on the ground and 88 yards through the air.

If Frost didn't kneel to end the game, it would have marked the second time in Husker history in which three Huskers ran for over 100 yards in the same game.

Defensively for the Blackshirts, Jay Foreman had nine tackles while Octavious McFarlin had seven stops. The Huskers harassed Washington's quarterbacks all game, recording four sacks and 13 quarterback hurries.

The Husker vaulted up to third in the polls and that is the lowest they would be ranked the rest of the season.

The Huskers went on to win their third National Championship in four years, beating Peyton Manning and the Tennessee Volunteers 42-17. This is a legacy Nebraska is striving to get back to.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **BOB NEWTON**

Football Player 1969-70

Column by Butch Rasmussen • Photo Courtesy of NU Media Relations

He was a big tough guy and former All American who spent 11 years in the NFL, many of them as a starter in the offensive line for the Chicago Bears and the Seattle Seahawks.

But he wasn't tough enough to whip the drug and alcohol problem that took over his life until he decided it was past time to get help.

Bob Newton is 67 years old today, a single man, after alcohol abuse destroyed his young marriage over 40 years ago. He had married prior to his senior year of college.

Newton was playing junior college football at Cerritos College in Norwalk, California and he was fortunate that the Huskers were just coming off a couple of 6-4 seasons – imagine Bob Devaney having back to back 6-4 seasons – but it happened and the Huskers were looking for some immediate help from players who could step in and make an immediate difference.

Newton was a 6-foot-4, 250-pound offensive lineman and wanted to move up to USC in the worst way and they were interested for awhile but they quit on him and his dream come true vanished in a hurry.

Barry Switzer visited from Oklahoma along with several other name coaches around the country but Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney were the ones who really made an impression and he signed with Nebraska.

With two years of college ball to play at Nebraska he found his position on the third team as his junior season approached. He didn't like Nebraska much and he hated the weather. Coming from southern California to Lincoln, Nebraska in January – well, it's a bit of an adjustment if you came in your short pants and flip flops with your surf board under your arm and tunes in your ears playing California Girls by the Beach Boys.. “Oh my gosh, what have I done,” he was thinking.

As the season got underway he was moved up to the second team and by mid season he had become a starter.

He remained a starter for the rest of his career at Nebraska while continuing to use alcohol and marijuana as a minor offender.

When asked the greatest moment he'll never forget from his college football experience without question he said it was when the clock ran out on the final minute of the 1971 Orange Bowl victory over LSU to clinch the 1970 National Champi-



onship for Nebraska.

He was drafted in the third round of the 1971 draft by the Chicago Bears and played five years for Bears before moving on to the Seattle Seahawks for six years.

Newton was a starter for most of his 11 years in the NFL and each year his drug and alcohol abuse continued to get worse. He had a DUI while with the Bears and two more while with the Seahawks and in 1973 there was the introduction to cocaine.

Maybe he had good reason to pacify himself. Nobody does more grunt work than the offensive line. Newton reports his 1971 signing bonus with the Bears at 12 grand and his salaries for the next four years at 17,000, 21,000, 24,000 and 27,000.

His final year in the league, year number 11, he said he earned \$105,000. But, remember those figures were 35 years ago.

“By 1981 I'm using cocaine two or three times a week. Now I have a problem with pot, alcohol and coke,” he said. “I was released by the Seahawks in Sep-

tember 1982. Then in January 1983 I was involved in a three-car accident and received my fourth and final DUI. By July 1983 I'm seeing my world closing in around me so I checked into an alcohol and drug inpatient center named Valley General Hospital, Monroe, Wa.,” Newton said.

“During the treatment process I became educated on the illness of alcoholism. I always felt my drinking and drug use was a disciplined problem. I was ignorant about addiction. My counselor, Don Andersen, had a great affect on me with his tremendous insight and humor. When I left treatment I was thoroughly convinced I was an alcoholic/addict and needed to remain in recovery. Thankfully, I have remained sober,” Newton says.

For the last 30 years Newton has worked in the chemical dependency field as a counselor, educator, administrator and professional speaker. For the past 15 years he has worked at the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation as a counselor, lead counselor and director. He continues to work directly with patients and also as a public speaker and educator in building awareness with his audiences.

Newton has worked with many athletes, coaches, teachers and administrators at the high school, college and pro level. Coach Tom Osborne has used him many times to talk with NU athletes about the dangers of substance use.

Newton continues to find great satisfaction in helping others with alcohol and drug problems.



Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photo Courtesy by NU Media Relations

Big Red Rolls

'Triplets' lead Nebraska to one of largest victories in school history

Nebraska 84, Minnesota 13

Sept. 17, 1983 in Minneapolis, MN

The score said it all, as it was a total mismatch of epic proportions.

The No. 1 Nebraska Cornhuskers played their entire 60-man travel roster and scored at will against the unranked Minnesota Golden Gophers, putting up 21 points in each of the four quarters in route to an 84-13 win.

It was the largest total Nebraska ever scored against an NCAA Division I-A team, and the most since a 100-0 victory over Nebraska Wesleyan in 1917.

In contrast, the 71-point margin was the worst defeat suffered by Minnesota in its 100 years.

The stars of the game for the Cornhusker offense were the "Triplets," I-back Mike Rozier, wingback Irving Fryar and quarterback Turner Gill.

All three had phenomenal games, but it was Fryar who stole the show, scoring three touchdowns, two on pass receptions of 70 and 68 yards and one on an option run of 41 yards.

Fryar set a Nebraska wingback record for reception yards with 138 on those two touchdown catches, the longest receptions of his career.

He also rushed for 92 yards on only three carries.

Meanwhile Rozier, who played just three quarters, ran for 196 yards on just 15

carries, averaging 13 yards each time he got the ball.

Not to be outdone, Gill bettered Rozier's average by rushing for 100 yards on just four carries, an average of 25 yards per carry. He also threw for 136 yards.

Here is the scoring breakdown of the Huskers' record-setting offensive performance.

FIRST QUARTER

NU 6-0: Fullback Mark Schellen scores on a trap play up the middle for 27 yards. Extra point fails.

NU 14-0: Wingback Irving Fryar splits out wide on the left with nobody covering him. He catches a quick pass from quarterback Turner Gill and runs for a 68-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion is good (Gill to Fryar pass).

NU 21-0: Fryar catches a pass from Gill over the middle and runs untouched for a 70-yard touchdown. Extra point is good by Dave Schneider.

SECOND QUARTER

NU 28-7: Fryar goes in motion in the backfield and takes the option pitch from Gill on the right side and runs for a touchdown from 41 yards out. Extra point is good by Schneider.

NU 35-7: I-back Jeff Smith takes the option pitch from quarterback Nate Mason on the left side for a 12-yard touchdown. Extra point is good by Schneider.

NU 42-10: I-back Mike Rozier takes the handoff from Gill and runs up the middle for a seven-yard touchdown. Extra



point is good by Schneider.

Huskers' Halftime Offensive Stats: Nebraska rushed for 292 yards on 24 carries and passed for 136 for a total of 428 yards.

THIRD QUARTER

NU 49-10: Rozier takes the handoff from Gill and dives over the top for a one-yard touchdown. Extra point is good by Scott Livingston.

NU 56-10: Gill fakes the handoff to Rozier, rolls around the left side, and muscled



Nebraska's Irving Fryar had one of his best games as a Husker in the 84-13 victory over Minnesota in 1983.

through two Gopher defenders for a 12-yard touchdown run. Extra point is good by Livingston.

NU 63-13: Rozier takes the handoff and breaks to the outside down the sideline for a 71-yard touchdown run. Extra point is good by Livingston.

FOURTH QUARTER

NU 70-13: Quarterback Craig Sundberg throws a short pass over the left side in the flat to Jeff Smith. Smith eludes

four tacklers down the field for a 51-yard touchdown play. Extra point is good by Livingston.

NU 77-13: Sundberg rolls right on the option and runs the remaining 44 yards untouched for the score. Extra point is good by Livingston.

NU 84-13: Sundberg calls a quarterback sneak and rams it up the middle for a 1-yardtouch down. Extra point is good by Livingston.

NEBRASKA'S FINAL OFFENSIVE GAME STATS

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| First downs | 25 |
| Rushes-yards | 55-595 |
| Passing yards | 195 |
| Total yards | 790 |
| Passes | 5-15-1 |
| Punts | 3-44 |
| Fumbles-lost | 2-2 |
| Time of possession | 22:35 |



10 Questions with Caroline Flynn

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Mitch Otto

Senior midfielder Caroline Flynn, a Lincoln Southwest graduate, has helped the Nebraska soccer team start 7-2. Below is an interview with *Huskers Illustrated*.

Q: What's this experience been like at Nebraska, especially being from Lincoln?

"It's been an amazing experience. I think if anyone has the chance to be a Husker athlete they should definitely take it. I think that our experience here is unparalleled to any university. Having a great coaching staff has been awesome and also the support staff around the stadium. There really is no other experience than being a Husker athlete."

Q: You have won many academic awards with having a 4.0 in most semesters. How have you been able to juggle both?

A: "A lot of organization. I am definitely a perfectionist, so I make sure that I have all my things laid out. I use a planner a lot. Just organizing everything and making for time sports, but more importantly academics. Keeping ahead of everything when we travel on the road."

Q: The team had five ACL injuries a year ago. How much did those girls rely on you since you went through the process two years ago?

A: "Having some of us girls going through it before we can definitely relate and help the girls going through it because it is not an easy process at all. The biggest thing is staying positive through all of it. All of us girls keep a supportive and positive attitude through all of it."

Q: You played for the Under-23 U.S. National Team. What was that experience like?

A: "That was an extremely amazing experience. It was an amazing moment putting on the U.S. jersey. I have never experienced something like that before. You see a lot of the hard work come forth and it was awesome being able to travel and play internationally with the caliber players that

are on the under-23 national team. It was awesome."

Q: Do you plan on going pursuing the U.S. National Team once you graduate?

A: "If I have the opportunity I would love to. It has always been a dream of mine."

Q: Were you a little more intense this year watching the U.S. National Team in the Olympics this year than previous years?

A: "It's really cool because the under-23 is a step down from the national team so when I got to camp and everything with U-23, we watched film on the full team and I kind of learned some of their tactics. Watching the qualifying games was really cool and see what type of style of play they were going for. It was really cool."

Q: Who on the Women's U.S. National Team do you keep a close eye on?

A: "My favorite player is Tobin Heath. I had actually grown up watching her when I was little in clubs tournaments. We would always go to the Final Four and she played for North Carolina. Every

2016 Women's Soccer Schedule

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 8-19 Marquette | W 2-1 |
| 8-22 @ BYU L, | W, 1-0 |
| 8-26 @ Oregon | L 1-0 |
| 8-28 @ Oregon State | W, 2-1 |
| 9-2 Kansas | W, 1-0 |
| 9-4 Saint Louis | W, 2-1 |
| 9-9 Dayton | W, 3-1 |
| 9-11 @ Clemson | L, 5-2 |
| 9-16 Michigan State | W, 2-0 |
| 9-18 Michigan | |
| 9-23 @ Ohio State | |
| 9-25 @ Penn State | |
| 9-30 Indiana | |
| 10-6 @ Wisconsin | |
| 10-9 @ Minnesota | |
| 10-13 Illinois | |
| 10-16 Northwestern | |
| 10-22 @ Rutgers | |
| 10-26 Iowa | |
| 10-30 Big Ten Tournament | |
| 11-4 Big Ten Tournament | |
| 11-6 Big Ten Tournament | |

since I was little, I enjoyed watching her develop as a player, she's extremely crafty with the ball and she is a extremely

hard worker. So I try to emulate her characteristics in my own play."

Q: What's something you like to do when soccer isn't taking up your time?

A: "I really like nature and adventure so I know Nebraska's a little hard to get out there and enjoy. Anytime I am on a coast, I love hiking and anything outdoors."

Q: Where's somewhere you've always wanted to explore?

A: "I had some teammates go to Iceland and they did a lot of hiking there, so I think going to Iceland would be pretty cool."

Q: The team's motto is Big 10 Champs. What does the team need to do to accomplish that goal?

A: "We are just taking it one game at a time. It's a long season so we are saying, 'alright next game.' All of our attention right now is on Friday, and then when Friday's over we will regroup and get ready for Sunday. Pretty much our mentality is to learn from each game and continue to improve throughout the season."

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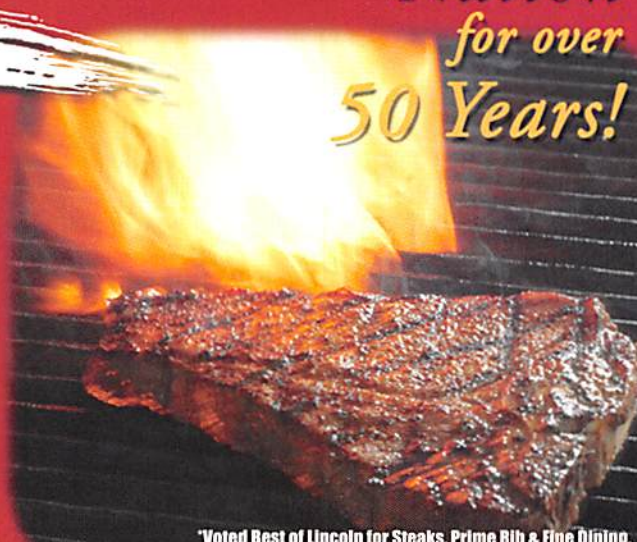
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CONFERENCE CHALLENGE

Consistency will be a key as Huskers seek first Big Ten title since 2011

Story by Bob Hamar • Photo by Reggie Ryder

Nebraska coach John Cook breaks the season down into three parts.

There is the non-conference portion where he tries to test his team in order to get it ready to play the second part of the season, that's Big Ten Conference play.

The Huskers completed a perfect 9-0 non-conference slate on Saturday with a 3-1 victory over in-state rival Creighton at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Following that, of course, is the NCAA Tournament. That's the third portion of the season.

The Huskers have made it through the non-conference. Now it's on to what may be the toughest volleyball conference in the nation.

And they open with three-straight road games at Michigan Sept. 23, at Michigan State the next night and then at Illinois on Sept. 28.

As of Sept. 12, both Michigan State (No. 22) and Michigan (No. 23) were in the AVCA Top 25 coaches poll. That's just how the Big Ten rolls.

Eight Big Ten teams were in the Sept. 12 ratings with No. 1 Nebraska, No. 3 Minnesota, No. 6, Wisconsin, No. 14 Purdue, No. 19 Ohio State, No. 20 Penn State and the two Michigan teams.

With that poll as a guide, the Huskers will play 11 matches against Top 25 teams in the Big Ten. They face Michigan, Ohio State, Minnesota and Penn State twice each and Wisconsin, Purdue, and Michigan State once each.

The defending national champion Huskers did not win the Big Ten last year, finishing behind conference champion Minnesota. Consistency is a must in the Big Ten. Cook said it may be more difficult to win the Big Ten than the national championship.

"The schedule is very random and some teams are going to have easier draws than others, but to do it over 10 weeks and come out on top might be tougher than winning a three-week tournament where you only play six matches," Cook said.

Cook said the non-conference portion of the schedule prepared the Huskers to face the rigors of the Big Ten season.

"We started with two top 10 teams (Florida and

Texas), then we had our home tournament against Iowa State who is going to have a good RPI every year competing in the Big 12," Cook said. "And then we went to New Mexico. We wanted to get in a tough environment. It's at altitude. The Pit is very loud with over 4,000 people in there."

"I knew New Mexico would have a good team and would be fired up to play us. We were hoping Arkansas would give us more of a test and we'd have to play two back-to-backs on the road."

The Huskers were hitting a Big Ten best .338 as a team on Sept. 12. Cook liked that production as the non-conference season wound down, but said so much of that depends on the opposition.

Passing and balance were the key factors going into that league-leading percentage.

"We're better (passing) than we were last year," Cook said. "Our floor passers who pass most of our balls are all consistently higher than last year."

And the balanced attack even includes setter Kelly Hunter.

"Just look at our stats," Cook said. "Everybody is getting kills and Kelly is getting kills. You have to defend six people. The only person who hasn't really offensively got going is Anni (Albrecht) out of the back row so we have to get better at that."

The Huskers know they won't sneak up on anybody in the Big Ten this season as they go for their first conference title since 2011.

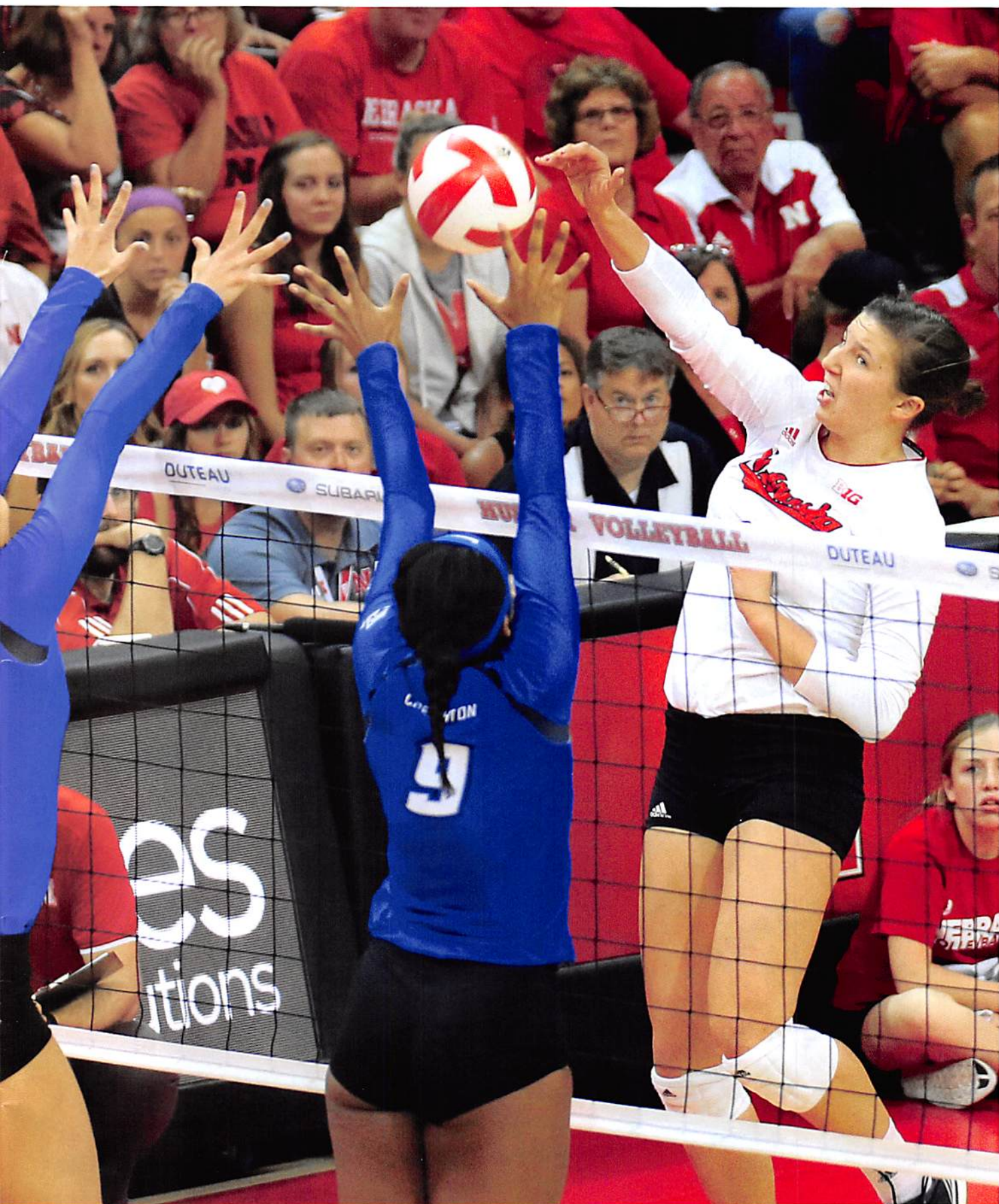
"Maybe because we're No. 1 or maybe it's probably because we're Nebraska, we're always going to have a target on our back," senior libero Justine Wong-Orantes said. "Every time someone sees Nebraska they're going to give it their best shot."

The Husker players know they have to be good night after night in order to capture a Big Ten championship.

"The Big Ten, you have to grind every single day," senior middle blocker Amber Rolfzen said. "Playing in the Big Ten, you have a tough match every single night. Once you get to the tournament, you're really well prepared."

Or as sophomore Mikaela Foecke says, "The Big Ten is a test of your mental toughness as well as your volleyball skills."





Mikaela Foecke makes an attack for Nebraska during Saturday night's four-set victory over Creighton at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

2016 Schedule

VERT Challenge at Eugene, Oregon

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Aug. 26 | Florida | W, 3-1 |
| Aug. 27 | Texas | W, 3-0 |

Nebraska Invite at Lincoln, Nebraska

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Sept. 2 | Iowa State | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 3 | Oregon State | W, 3-0 |

Lobo Classic at Albuquerque, N.M.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------|
| Sept. 8 | Montreal (Exh.) | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 9 | Arkansas | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 10 | New Mexico | W, 3-0 |

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

| | | |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| Sept. 16 | Montana State | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 16 | Gonzaga | W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 17 | Creighton | W, 3-1 |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| Sept. 23 | at Michigan | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 24 | at Michigan State | TBA |
| Sept. 28 | at Illinois | 7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 1 | Ohio State | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 7 | Indiana | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 9 | Purdue | 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 14 | at Ohio State | 5 p.m. |
| Oct. 16 | at Maryland | Noon |
| Oct. 21 | Wisconsin | 8 p.m. |
| Oct. 23 | Minnesota | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 28 | Illinois | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 29 | Northwestern | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 4 | at Penn State | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 5 | at Rutgers | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 9 | Iowa | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 12 | at Indiana | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 16 | Penn State | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 19 | at Iowa | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 23 | at Minnesota | 8 p.m. |
| Nov. 26 | Michigan | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 1-3 | NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds | TBD |
| Dec. 9-10 | NCAA Regionals | - TBD |
| Dec. 15 | NCAA Semis | at Columbus, |
| Dec. 17 | NCAA Finals | at Columbus |



DREAMING BIGGER

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Reggie Ryder

PLAY DAY RULES AFFECT SCHEDULING

The Huskers hosted the annual Ameritas Classic Sept. 16-17 at the Devaney Center. They played two matches on Friday and then faced Creighton Saturday night after the Oregon-Nebraska football game.

Cook would prefer not to play two games in one day, but it's become a requirement to get teams to come to Lincoln. Each college team is allowed 28 play days during the season, but two matches on one day counts as just one play day.

The Huskers have 20 Big Ten matches, so they have just eight other dates to play non-conference foes.

The Huskers also didn't want to put their home sellout streak in jeopardy with a Friday afternoon match, but that is no longer an issue.

"We tried to avoid it because we didn't want to blow the sellout streak," Cook said. "But now it's part of the season ticket package. The key now is if people aren't going, they can give them to other people to go."

The Ameritas Classic used to be a three-day tournament running Thursday through Saturday. That just doesn't work any more.

"All the teams coming in here want to play three matches," Cook said. "And we can't do it over three days because we don't have enough play days with the Big Ten Schedule. This is kind of the only way we can get teams to come here because they want matches. This is what we have to do."

BANWARTH A ROLE MODEL

A couple of years ago, Cook paired current Husker players up with former players and had them talk on the phone and get to know each other. He teamed libero Justine Wong-Orantes with Kayla Banwarth, who was the libero for the U.S. team at the Olympics this summer.

Banwarth, along with former Huskers Jordan Larson and Kelsey Anderson, brought bronze medals home from Rio.

"To see her be so successful in her career and in the Olympics is pretty cool," Wong-Orantes said. "That's definitely a dream of mine."

Wong-Orantes said watching Banwarth was an inspiration

for her.

"It kind of makes everything tangible," Wong-Orantes said. "Seeing her be that successful just kind of drives me even more. Her, Jordan and Kelsey, it's just really cool for them to be former Huskers and to be successful. I think it drives us to work even harder."

NEW COLOR COMMENTATOR

The Husker Sports Network tried out a new color commentator when Nebraska played in the Lobo Classic Sept. 8-10.

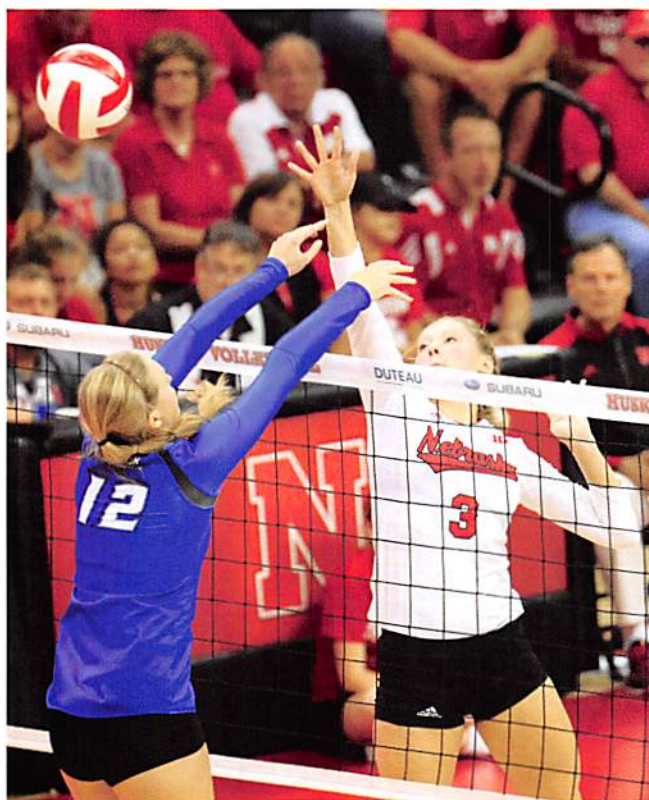
Former Nebraska setter and daughter of the head coach Lauren Cook took her place alongside long-time play-by-play man John Baylor that weekend.

"She just told me it was harder than she thought and by the third night she thought she was getting in a groove," John Cook said.

The Huskers played an exhibition match against the University of Montreal the first night, then faced Arkansas the second. Attendance for the Arkansas match was listed at 100 people.

"It was brutal," he said. "I told the team afterward there would be no more matches like that because now we're on the road in the Big Ten or we'll be at home."

"Mentally it's really hard when you're used to playing in front of big crowds. It's really, really hard."



Kelly Hunter makes an attack against Creighton on Saturday night.

NEW BRAND OF VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball may be changing right before your eyes.

The top teams are coming up with better athletes who can do things on the court that others can't.

Nebraska's Briana Holman is one such player.

"The level is being raised by the level of athletes playing volleyball," Cook said. "I look at our side. Briana Holman did some things I'm not sure I've ever seen a Nebraska player do."

"There were a couple of times it looked like her belly button was above the net. That's what it looked like from where I was sitting. That might be an exaggeration, but she can get up in the air and hang for a long time."

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